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THE TIMES

Survey of the crisis facing the world steel industry, page 7

Mr Steel tells critics pact must stay to help nation

The special Liberal assembly next month will be told by Mr Steel, the party leader, that he will fight to retain the pact with Labour to help Britain through its economic troubles. If the conference rejected his strategy he would resign as leader.

Some Liberals fear a Labour 'hoodwink'

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, gave notice to his critics in his party yesterday that he intends to fight for the continuation of the pact with the Government mainly on economic grounds and in the national interest when he attends the party's special assembly at Blackpool on January 21.

If the assembly rejects his strategy Mr Steel would resign from the leadership. But that seems unlikely to happen now that he has indicated quite clearly that he does not see the pact running much beyond the Budget period next year.

In an article in *The Times* today [page 12] Mr Steel says: "*One argument I dissent from* is that we can end the Lib-Lab agreement and still not have an election. That seems to promise the worst of every world."

He points to the Scottish nationalists' desire for an early election and says that reliance on Ulster Unionists would damage the Government's so far creditable Irish policy. "The national interest would not be served by having a 'lame duck' Government staggering from week to week and vote to vote", Mr Steel says.

In a letter to Liberal candidates, published yesterday, Mr Steel disclosed that he has told Mr Callaghan that in view of the mood of the Liberal Party he cannot see it being possible to keep the pact going much longer.

The only way of changing that prospect would be if the Prime Minister "comes up with such an exciting package of Liberal proposals for the session 1978-79 that the mood is altered".

Mr Steel said that he thought the party ought to stick to the pact "beyond the Budget (partly because we expect some Liberal policies therein) and bring the agreement to an end properly and with decent notice only when we feel it has ended its main purpose of seeing the country through the economic crisis".

Some of his Liberal critics who want the pact ended now said yesterday that they think Mr Steel may be hesitating too long and that he could be hoodwinked by Mr Callaghan. They think the Government is nervous about breaches of the pay guidelines and that the election will be timed for the early summer, before inflation begins to increase again.

Mr Steel might get some promises in the Budget, and certainly some immediate cuts in income tax, but the critics think that the party will by then have little time to organize a general election campaign as an independent political force.

The timing of an election could be in the minds of Cabinet ministers on Thursday when they meet to review the operation of the present phase of the pay policy.

If the Liberals decided at their special conference next month to withdraw from the pact, Liberal MPs would be expected to accept the verdict and the Government would then have to rely on the Scottish and Welsh nationalists to give it a majority in the Commons if challenged on a vote of confidence.

But Mr Douglas Henderson, Scottish National Party MP for East Aberdeenshire and an SNP leader, on Saturday challenged what he called "the *cosy assumption*" *that because* the Government had introduced the Scottish devolution Bill it would get the nationalists' blind support.

The proposed Scottish assembly would have no powers to raise revenue or to tackle Scottish unemployment and no access to Scottish oil revenues, he said.

If the Government was not prepared to amend the Scotland Bill to take account of those deficiencies "I believe that the Scottish people should have the chance to pass judgment on them at a general election".

It is clear from Mr Steel's letter to the Liberal candidates, who all have the right to attend the special party assembly in Blackpool, that he would resign if the party goes against his strategy, but he does not say so.

He was apparently so advised by Mr Alan Beith, the Liberal Chief Whip. It was felt that the message should be worded to avoid the debate being turned into a wrangle about personalities.

Mr Steel advised Liberal candidates to combine their long-term programme with a readiness to work with others wherever they saw the chance to carry out Liberal policies.

His main justification for going on with the pact for the time being was that it had brought economic benefits. "All the arguments about providing a period of stability and assisting the counter-inflation policy fall in ruins if we pull out now on the electorally baffling issue of proportional representation [PR] for Europe", Mr Steel told the candidates.

He said he told Mr Callaghan that while he, as leader of a large party, could justifiably ignore or defy a conference decision, the 13 Liberal MPs could not go against the decision of an assembly or its strategy and keep the Liberal Party intact.

"Therefore", he continued, "if you decide to break off the agreement it will be broken.

"I could not be party to breaking the agreement delivered over my signature to the Prime Minister. You did not conclude it: I did, and therefore you may not have the same inhibition. Nor could I lead the party into an election arguing a case in which I do not believe.

"I want to be able to argue the case for a better way of running Britain and illustrate it as we have never been able to before by pointing to a successful period of political co-operation. I cannot do that if various organs of the party have periodic hysterics over some aspect of the agreement", Mr Steel said.

The party must make up its mind on what course it wanted to take. "We must show that we are capable of suffering temporary unpopularity and misunderstanding, and even abuse, and emerging with credit and credibility at the end of it."

David Wood, page 13

Concern at shortfall in government spending

By Melvyn Westlake

There is serious concern at the most senior levels within the Treasury over the mounting evidence that government spending is again falling short of planned levels.

In an attempt to discover why this is happening and what the implications may be for the economy, the Treasury has begun having informal talks with spending departments.

New Whitehall estimates suggest that central government spending is running about 3½ per cent below target on programmes covered by the new system of cash limits.

This is about the same order of underspending that occurred during the last financial year, which ended in March. If there is no change before next spring it could mean that Whitehall expenditure is over £1,000m less than originally expected.

The reason for worrying about this trend is that, as a result of underspending, the Government's fiscal policy could be rather more restrictive than intended, thereby adding unnecessarily to unemployment. However, it still remains unclear what is causing this to happen.

Under the new system of cash limits, which was introduced for the first time in the financial year 1976-77 to cover about two thirds of public expenditure, the actual level of cash spending is set against spending profiles drawn up at the start of the year.

Because the system is so new, government departments have little experience of this new control system. There is some feeling within the Treasury that it may, in some cases, be the profiles that are wrong when spending falls short of expectation. Alternatively, it may be that spending departments are being over cautious in making cash outlays.

There would, it appears, be no objection to some small underspending if this amounted to no more than 1 per cent or less of planned expenditure.

However, there is likely to be a concerted effort in the last few months of the present financial year to get the level of spending more closely in line *with expenditure profiles.*

Some concern about developments in this area also appears to be felt by officials at the Bank of England. The Bank observed in the latest *Quarterly Bulletin*, published last week, that the shortfall in expenditure in money terms may mask a rather larger real fall.

This is because when the cost of government purchases of goods and services is calculated in cash terms, a rise in prices leads to a fall in the actual *volume of such expenditure.*

The *Bulletin* noted that fiscal policy seemed to be slightly

Continued on page 15, col 2

President Kyprianou of Cyprus welcomes his son's safe return to Nicosia yesterday after his kidnappers had released him. Report, page 5.

Mr Begin offers Sinai withdrawal in return for a complete peace

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Dec 18

Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, said here this morning that he would go to Egypt at the end of this week or early next week to meet President Sadat. If the meeting proves fruitful he has asked President Carter to invite both of them to Washington, where they would presumably commit themselves in public to the outline of terms for a comprehensive peace settlement.

Mr Begin, who was interviewed on television, did not give many details of the proposals which he has submitted to President Carter and to Mr Sadat. From what he said, and from leaks here and in Israel, it seems that the proposals are for Israel to withdraw from Sinai in return for a complete peace with Egypt and various guarantees. The nature of those guarantees, including demilitarized zones and zones of limited military occupation, would be settled during the negotiations.

Mr Begin said firmly that he was opposed, and believed that Mr Sadat was also opposed, to any Russian participation in an operation for monitoring the peace in Sinai, and hinted that he wanted the Americans to continue their present monitoring there.

It is not known whether Israel is offering to withdraw from the whole of Sinai. It used to insist on keeping Sharm el Shaikh and might also want to keep an area near the Gaza Strip in the north. It is quite clear that Egypt will insist on full withdrawal.

Israel proposes to give the Palestinians living on the West Bank self-rule, or autonomy. Mr Begin said that these terms, which he preferred himself, are the equivalent of self-determination. He suggested that whether the resulting government was called an entity, a homeland, or something else was a matter of semantics.

"The people will have authority to conduct their own affairs through their own elected officials", he said. He claimed that this would be the first time the Palestinians had enjoyed such a right in their history. He said that he did not believe that they would elect *extremists by secret ballot, even* if the extremists were to stand for election.

Reports from Israel say that Israel would specifically renounce any claim to sovereignty over the West Bank. This is a big concession by Mr Begin, who has often claimed that "Judaea and Samaria" are part of the *land of Israel. Israel* would guarantee its security, presumably by keeping military posts along the Jordan, thus protecting itself at the same *time.*

Jews would continue to have the right to settle in the West Bank. Mr Begin said that Arabs from the West Bank would also *have the right to settle in Israel* and that he was convinced that "Palestinian Arabs and Palestinian Jews" could live amicably together under such an arrangement.

As for East Jerusalem, he said that there might be self-rule for the holy shrines under their own religious authorities.

Mr Begin said that Israel neither wanted, nor would initiate, negotiations for a separate peace with Egypt. However, he said that if President Sadat proposed it, as a first step towards a comprehensive peace, Israel would give it careful consideration.

He offered no clarification *of the international juridical* status of the West Bank under the arrangements he is proposing.

Israel wants the future autonomous West Bank to have close links with Jordan. He did not say whether King Husain has been informed of these proposals yet, but it is clear that he must be brought into the negotiating process soon if it is to have any success.

Mr Begin saw President Carter twice during his stay in Washington—on Friday morning and then again on Saturday evening. Each meeting lasted two hours. He is leaving this afternoon and will return home by way of London.

Moshe Brilliant writes from Tel Aviv: Professor Yigael Yadin, acting Prime Minister of Israel, *told* the Cabinet in Jerusalem today that he could state on Mr Begin's authority that the Prime Minister and President Carter were in full accord on ideas for peace.

Professor Yadin said the Prime Minister had telephoned him from Washington early this morning and told him to tell the Cabinet he was "very, very optimistic".

Kings meet, page 5
Leading article, page 13

Mrs Gandhi resigns from party executive

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, Dec 18

Mrs Gandhi, the former Indian Prime Minister, resigned today from the executive of the Congress Party, intensifying the struggle between rival factions *since the party lost the general* election last March under her leadership.

However, Mrs Gandhi said in her resignation letter to Mr Brahmananda Reddy, the party's president, that she intended to remain a party member. "In my view, remaining an ordinary member of the Congress Party *will* enable me to better serve our organization and our country and to fight for the causes and ideals we have held dear", she said.

Mrs Gandhi's move suggests that she is acting in stages with typical caution, testing the ground to see how today's step is received within the divided party. *She has been under pressure* from some of her more headstrong supporters to denounce the party leaders in an attempt to take the main *following of the party with her.*

Only yesterday, when she was asked to say whether she was going to resign from the party executive in a day or two, Mrs *Gandhi had replied* "That is like asking 'when did you stop beating your wife?'

"I have always worked for unity. I am certainly not *splitting anything. There are* many people I have held back, but I cannot control the situation. It is not in my hands", she said.

Doctor tells how drug abusers pestered her

By Stewart Tendler
Home Affairs Reporter

A man aged 23 died from a drug overdose in a London lodging house last September. The man, who had come in off the street for the night, was being treated by a drug dependency clinic, but a syringe was found by his side.

A friend later revealed that the man had been obtaining prescriptions from an elderly doctor in north London.

The doctor has described to *The Times* how she had been intimidated by drug abusers to provide them with prescriptions. Dr Irene Amster, who is over 70, has resigned from the National Health Service and eventually plans to retire completely, but she is still pestered by drug abusers. Living alone in a nine-room house in Kilburn, she remains extremely vulnerable.

Dr Amster, who qualifeid in Berlin in 1925, is a classic example of the type of doctor who falls prey to the demands of drug abusers and their self-*destructive ordinance. There* are other elderly doctors with solitary practices in London who have fallen foul of them, once they have given in to one, the word is passed round and an unceasing queue appears.

The names of three other doctors have been given to *The Times* by social workers and doctors dealing with drug abusers.

The Home Office, which administers the provisions of the Misuse of Drugs Act, said: "Our attention has been drawn to possible irresponsible prescribing by certain doctors in the London area and we are looking into it."

Machinery exists to curtail the prescribing, but it takes time, and the police and other doctors feel that it could be changed to speed up the process. In that way the doctors and the abusers would be protected.

Last Tuesday I watched a number of young people at the door of Dr Amster's house trying to get her to open it. Eventually the police were called and the men disappeared hurriedly into the night. A young woman opened the door and explained to a policeman that the doctor was no longer practising.

The next morning I arranged by telephone to see the doctor. When I arrived more young men were at the door, although a notice had been put up stating that the doctor was not seeing patients or giving prescriptions.

Eventually the doctor came to the door and told two men that her next surgery would be on Thursday. One of the men said he could wait until then but asked her to help his friend. That young man was asked if he wanted Ritalin, a drug used for depression and often abused.

The man said he wanted Diconal, a drug used for painkilling. The drug is described as a potent analgesic with an action similar to morphine and can be addictive.

Dr Amster refused, although she said she could give a linctus. I was present during the exchange and the doctor asked me why I was there. I said I had rung her shortly before, but she did not seem to remember that. The two men

Continued on page 2, col 5

Miners force new look at bonuses

From Our Correspondent
Lochgelly, Fife

After a stormy meeting lasting two hours yesterday, the 1,100 miners and craftsmen at Solsgirth colliery agreed to return to work, but only after Mr Michael McGahey, the Scottish miners' leader, agreed to call a special meeting of the Scottish executive of the National Union of Mineworkers to discuss their demand for a local productivity agreement.

The executive will meet in Edinburgh today, and that may be followed by a special delegate conference of the Scottish area later this week.

Mr McGahey was greeted by a mixture of loud boos and applause when he faced the men in a Lochgelly cinema. On strike since last Tuesday, the men demanded to know why they had been placed under a "wage freeze" by their own union at its delegate meeting a week ago, when it was decided to press for £135 a week for face workers and that an incentive scheme should be on an area basis.

They believe that a local productivity agreement at Solsgirth would mean an extra £30 a week, bringing a face worker's wage up to nearly £120.

After the meeting Mr McGahey said: "I have agreed to call the special meeting of the executive tomorrow to discuss the feelings of the Solsgirth men.

"At their conference yesterday the Scottish Colliery Craftsmen, Enginemen and Boilermen's Association empowered their officials to enter negotiations for an area incentive scheme. The Solsgirth men made it clear they want a local scheme. As a result there will almost certainly have to be a special delegate conference of the Scottish area, probably on Thursday."

He added that he was unaware of any other pits in Scotland wishing to negotiate local schemes.

Mr William Ewing, local union branch chairman, said: "The men are prepared to examine an area scheme, but only if it will give us the same money that a local one will; in other words, if Solsgirth is taken as the standard for the Scottish coalfield."

Ronald Kershaw writes from Barnsley: Increasing numbers of Yorkshire miners in favour of locally negotiated incentive bonus schemes will make their views felt at today's meeting of their area council at Barnsley.

Although a majority of Yorkshire's 60,000 miners voted against incentives in the recent national ballot, there is a reluctance to reject such payments while miners in neighbouring areas are preparing to enjoy them with the approval of the union's national executive.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' president, who led the campaign against incentive deals, will be arguing that they generate inequality, create resentment and ill will and set man against man and pit against pit.

He will have to convince delegates that the principles he propounds are more important than additional money.

It seems likely that if marked differences arise at today's Yorkshire council mewting Mr Scargill will argue against any binding decision being taken until after tomorrow.

Airliner in sea off Funchal

Lisbon, Dec 18.—A Swiss charter airliner with 57 people on board crashed in the sea as it approached the airport of Funchal in the Madeira islands for landing today in the second air disaster on the mid-Atlantic islands in less than a month.

Airport spokesmen said boats were searching for survivors at the crash spot five miles out. The airliner, a Caravelle, was flying from Geneva for Sata, the Swiss charter company.

On November 19 a Portuguese TAP Boeing 727 overshot the runway at Funchal, killing 131 passengers and crew.

Funchal airport is considered one of the most dangerous in the world. Its main runway juts out over the Atlantic Ocean and is bounded on three sides by long drops into the sea and the fourth by mountainside.—UPI.

'Too late to save Christmas bread supplies'

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

The bakery workers' overtime ban because of a pay dispute looks certain to continue over the Christmas holiday.

Mr Samuel Maddox, general secretary of the Bakery, Food and Allied Workers' Union, said last night: "Even if they made us the greatest offer in the world it is too late to save Christmas supplies".

A new attempt to arrange a meeting between the union and employers will be made by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) today.

Mr Maddox said the action could be called off only by a ballot of the 57,000 members in England and Wales, and that could not be conducted in time for a settlement by Christmas. He urged housewives not to indulge in panic buying.

Feeling was running so high that some union members might decide on an all-out strike, he said.

Small bakeries in which the union has no members are increasing production, but it is impossible to predict how supplies will be affected. Producers say the main manufacturers expect to lose a quarter of normal production. The union puts the figure at half.

Golden wedding privilege denied to Rudolf Hess

From Gretel Spitzer
Berlin, Dec 18

Frau Ilse Hess has been refused permission to visit her husband, Rudolf Hess, for a whole hour in Spandau prison on Tuesday, their golden wedding. Despite a special request, she will be able to see him only for the routine half hour from 3 ft away and under supervision of at least three guards.

Hitler's former deputy is being allowed an extra half hour visit over Christmas. But it must be used by authorized persons other than his wife.

Question mark over British reactor's use

A new assessment questions the suitability of British-designed advanced gas-cooled reactors for a third nuclear power station programme. They are said to take twice as long to build as predicted, their development has exceeded estimates by more than £1,000m, and they need redesigning to make them competitive Page 4

Victoria Falls attack

Six people were injured, one seriously, when the Rhodesian border town of Victoria Falls was attacked by mortars from Zambia. A Rhodesian military communiqué said the attack, which lasted 25 minutes, was silenced by Rhodesian retaliatory fire Page 5

'Union for officers'

The Society of Civil and Public Servants is examining the possibility of recruiting officers in the Armed Forces. It has told the TUC that it wishes to be consulted over any talks on the matter with the Government Page 2

Reports of a power struggle in China

Reports of a power struggle in China are rife in both Taiwan and Hongkong. Diplomats in Peking are, however, sceptical over reports of a split between chairman Hua and vice-chairman Teng. Observers believe that Mao's ideas of the past two decades are largely discounted by the new leadership Page 6

Art-linked pensions

Unions are to be offered more say in the *running* of British Rail's £478m pension fund, which has been criticized for investing more than £11m in works of art that may now be worth less than the purchase price Page 3

Miller saves England

England were 245 for six at the close of the fourth day of the first Test match against Pakistan at Lahore. This was in reply to Pakistan's first innings total of 407 for nine declared. Miller scored 71 not out Page 8

Springboks call off tour of Britain

The South Africans have postponed indefinitely their rugby tour of Great Britain and Ireland proposed for next winter. The tour had been under threat for the last seven years since the Springboks's previous, disrupted visit in 1969-70 Peter West, page 9

Protest halts bishop

Protestors outside a new Gloucester church beat back with sticks and umbrellas the Right Rev Augustine Hornyak, bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, and stopped him entering to perform the opening service. Several people were hurt in scuffles Page 2

Skytrain: Big queues have built up for Laker Airways' Christmas Skytrain services to New York 3

Buenos Aires: Argentine authorities blame guerrillas for kidnap of French nuns 5

Teheran: Plea to Shah by general under sentence of death 5

HOME NEWS

Union is considering recruitment of officers in Forces

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

A study of the possibility of unionizing officers in the Armed Forces is being undertaken by the Society of Civil and Public Servants, the second biggest of the nine Civil Service unions.

It has told the TUC of its "keen interest" and said it expects to be consulted on any talks with the Government. It regards 20,000 officers up to the rank of colonel, excluding specialists, as possible members.

An internal discussion paper drawn up for the union's general purposes committee refers to the difficulties of recruiting in the Armed Forces, but states: "At the end of the day the decision may have to be taken on the basis of: Can we afford not to recruit?"

Mr Gerry Gillman, general secretary, said last night: "Our options are wide open. We are still exploring. We will be talking to other unions to see what action they are taking, and that will influence our attitude.

"If other unions decided to recruit throughout the Armed Forces we might want to go ahead to prevent them dominating the situation. There There are some unions that we would prefer not to see recruiting there.

"A lot will depend on finding out more information on the attitude of the Armed Forces themselves. They might want to form their own organization, in which case we could be ready with advice and guidance based on our 70 or 80 years' experience in negotiating in the public service."

The union is seeking the views of the Government and the Ministry of Defence. It wants clarification of a recent statement in the Commons by Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, that there was no objection in principle to Servicemen and women joining unions.

The main interest in Forces recruitment by private sector unions is taken by the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, which recently discussed unionization with a group of flight lieutenants. Like the Civil Service unions, it has adopted a cautious approach.

The Civil Service unions would be infuriated by an incursion into officer ranks by a private sector union. Their renewed interest in the subject is partly an attempt to ensure that they do not lose the initiative.

The "other ranks" would probably be seen as appropriate recruits for one of the five unions in the industrial Civil Service: the transport workers, the general and municipal workers, the construction workers, the engineering union and the electricians' union.

The Forces encourage Servicemen and women with trades to join a union towards the end of their service to prepare the way for a civilian job.

Bishop Hornyak in Gloucester yesterday.

Crowd beats back bishop from church

From Our Correspondent
Gloucester

The Right Rev Augustine Hornyak, Apostolic Exarch of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Britain, was attacked by protesters when he tried to get into a new church to perform the opening service yesterday.

Bishop Hornyak, aged 58, was beaten back from the church in Derby Road, Gloucester, and had to retreat to his car with a bruised head.

The demonstrators said the bishop was a traitor to the Ukrainian community in this country, and called for Cardinal Joseph Slipyi to be declared their patriarch by the Pope.

A cordon of about fifty police officers tried to protect the bishop as he attempted to push his way to the church door. But the protesters surged forward to batter Bishop Hornyak with walking sticks and umbrellas.

Afterwards the bishop said the protest was political and not religious. The demonstrators were supported by the Ukrainian Revolutionary Nationalist Group, he said.

Mr John Finiw, spokesman for the demonstrators, said the bishop stood for all that was wrong in the Ukrainian Catholic Church, and that he aroused very deep emotions.

Several people were hurt in the scuffling and a plain-clothes detective who was mistaken for a supporter of the bishop, was hit with sticks when he tried to enter the church. Later a woman was arrested.

Our Religious Affairs Correspondent writes: The campaign to secure recognition of Cardinal Slipyi as patriarch has caused a split in the Ukrainian Catholic Church, which is in communion with the Pope. In the absence of an officially acknowledged patriarch, the church is ruled directly by the Vatican, to which Bishop Hornyak has remained loyal.

The cardinal is known to reject the Vatican's détente policies towards the Soviet Union.

Exorcism consultant

The Right Rev Bernard Markham, a former Bishop of Nassau and the Bahamas, has been appointed consultant on exorcism by the Bishop of Southwark, Dr Stockwood.

Mr Bessell 'not asked to return'

By a Staff Reporter

Two senior detectives investigating the Norman Scott affair returned to Britain yesterday after interviewing Mr Peter Bessell, the former Liberal MP, in California.

Det Chief Supt Michael Challes and Det Supt David Greenhough, both of Avon and Somerset police force, spent four days talking to Mr Bessell.

Later Mr Bessell said: "The question arose whether I would return to Britain to give evidence in the event of a trial. While I have not ruled this out, I was not asked, nor did I give any undertaking to do so."

Avon and Somerset police are investigating allegations by Mr Andrew Newton, a former pilot, that he was hired to kill Mr Scott by supporters of the Liberal Party. Mr Scott has claimed he had a homosexual affair with Mr Thorpe, which Mr Thorpe has denied.

When Mr Newton's allegations were made public two months ago, Mr Bessell said that when he was in Britain he knew of discussions to find a way of dealing with Mr Scott.

Cobalt bomb sent back to Harwell

A radioactive source known as a "cobalt bomb" has been sent back to the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell, Oxfordshire, by University College London because the college authorities were unwilling to keep it in the centre of London during the firemen's strike.

Professor Brian Rabin, the chairman of the college's safety committee, said yesterday that the decision may have been over-cautious, but "the college felt the only thing to do, although the risk was tiny, was to return it to the source".

The college informed the Department of the Environment of its decision. The department said: "We are confident the sources have adequate protection and their containers should survive a fire. But the site at the college may have been particularly vulnerable."

The "bomb" was housed in the college's zoology department for use in cancer research. It cannot explode, but can emit gamma rays and was therefore protected by four and a half tons of lead and steel.

Man in the news: Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien, 'Observer' editor-in-chief

Intellectual of many parts to start a new career

By Christopher Walker

Orator, academic, literary critic, former diplomat and one of the most influential members of the last Dublin government, Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien is a perfect example of the type of Irishman whose talents and intellectual ability completely belie the traditional saloon-bar caricature of a race of dimwits.

When he moves from Dublin to London early next year to take over as editor-in-chief of The Observer it will be another beginning in a distinguished career that has taken many unexpected turns since the young Trinity College graduate first joined the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs in 1944.

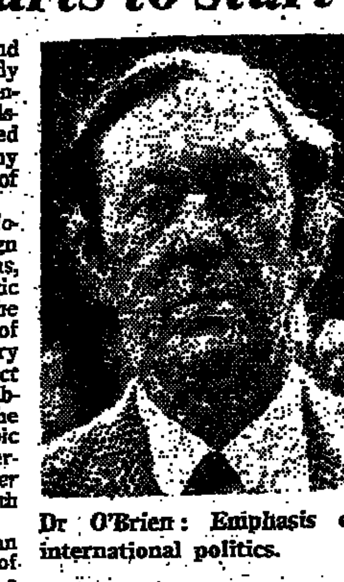
Now aged 60, Dr O'Brien (or "the Cruiser" as he is known to fellow Irish politicians) is probably best regarded for the personal courage which he has long shown in his continuing scathing criticism of the IRA, both Official and Provisional.

As author of the highly readable States of Ireland and former Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, he has consistently talked clear and comprehensible good sense about the Ulster conflict, which has earned him the hostility of many republicans and the respect of many northern Protestants.

His early career as a diplomat led from the Foreign Ministry to the United Nations, and ended with characteristic controversy in 1961 when he resigned as representative of the United Nations secretary general in Katanga. His object was to be free to criticize publicly the Congo policy of the British Government, an acerbic attack that was given considerable coverage in The Observer and began his association with the paper.

An interest in African affairs has dominated much of Dr O'Brien's life, leading to a three-year spell as Vice-Chancellor of Ghana University, a book To Katanga and Back, and a recent fact-finding trip to southern Africa that ended only last week.

"At The Observer I shall be responsible for major issues of policy", he said yesterday.



Dr O'Brien: Emphasis on international politics.

"This will be mainly in the political sphere, with particular emphasis on international politics."

His own political career, which began in 1969 when he was elected to the Dail as a Labour Party deputy, effectively ended last June when he lost his seat after fighting a highly individualistic campaign centred on repeated attacks against the alleged republican tendencies of the Fianna Fail Front Bench.

Although he subsequently won a university seat in the Irish Senate, the defeat has put him out of the political limelight and seen him return again to writing.

Over the years Dr O'Brien's prolific output has ranged from criticism of French existentialists like Albert Camus to a book examining the career of Parnell. As an academic he has held many posts, including the Albert Schweitzer chair of humanities at New York University.

His ability to use intellectual analysis to cut through the emotional issues of the Ulster crisis has earned him international acclaim, in contrast to the mixed reception, from many of his fellow countrymen. As one Dublin politician remarked recently: "The trouble with Conor is that he would be more at home in a London club than an Irish pub."

Big impact of falling school rolls foreseen

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Falling school rolls were singled out as the overriding issue confronting the education system in England and Wales by speakers at the Government's select two-day conference on comprehensive schools, which ended in York on Saturday.

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, was chairman for much of the conference, attended by 59 chief education officers, head teachers, teacher union representatives and other educationists, as well as senior department officials and school inspectors.

Mrs Williams spoke of the "massive impact" that falling rolls would have over the next decade on such things as parental choice, sixth-form organization and provision, staffing of schools and general administration.

Mr James Hamilton, Permanent Secretary at the department, abandoned his civil servant's silent anonymity only once during the public plenary session, to speak of the tensions that were being created between the need for stability in the education system and the inevitable changes that would be brought about

The number of secondary school pupils aged between 11 and 16 in England and Wales will continue to grow over the next two years until it reaches a peak of 3,750,000 in 1979. But it will then drop rapidly by an average of 11 per cent over the following six years, reaching 3,340,000 by 1985.

That at least is the national picture, which disguises much local variation. In some areas, where the fall in the birth rate is aggravated by emigration, the decline will be much steeper.

In inner London, for example, where the numbers have already started to fall, the present secondary school population of 30,000 is expected to drop by more than a third to 19,000 by 1984.

Mr Peter Newsam, chief education officer for inner London, believes the only way to achieve a reduction of size of all schools in a systematic way would be for the Government to enable authorities to reduce the entry of pupils to each form to, say 25, instead of the present 30, while maintaining the same staff establishment in schools.

That would mean, for example, that an eight-form entry school, which at present has an intake of 240, would continue to be defined as an eight-form entry school for staffing purposes, but would have an intake of only 200.

Mr Dudley Fiske, chief education officer for Manchester, argued that schools should at least be able to maintain a core of teachers, regardless of teacher-pupil ratios, so as to ensure that the pupils would be taught an adequate range of subjects.

In a paper presented to the conference Mr Jeffrey Aldam, chief education officer for Hampshire, spoke of the dangers of free parental choice of school, which he said could become a main factor in sheltering favoured schools from the effects of falling rolls by accelerating the decline of less popular "downtown" schools, to the grave detriment of the remaining children in those schools.

Declining rolls would inevitably bring greater need for in-service retraining of teachers, and possibly lead to the use of shared or peripatetic staff.

Fireman is arrested while helping Army

A striking fireman was arrested yesterday while helping the Army to fight a fire at a pensioner's flat in Stepney, east London.

Mr Michael Rogers, who left his picket line to go to the fire, claimed that a lieutenant with the Royal Horse Artillery told him: "Shove off, we don't want you here." Then, he said, a policeman told him: "You're on strike. Be on strike."

Mr Rogers said he had to insist he be allowed to wait, until a soldier took a grip on the hose he was using. He was then arrested and taken to a police station.

A spokesman at Leman Street police station said: "At the request of the Army we removed a man from the scene of the fire who was said to be hindering their work. No charges will be made."

The Ministry of Defence said Mr Rogers was making a nuisance of himself at the fire, in which three people were injured, including a man, aged 77, who lived at the flat in Swedenborg Gardens and a policeman. Later the Army said the whole incident had been caused by a "misunderstanding" but that at no time had the officer, whom they identified as Lieutenant Michael Wacher, told Mr Rogers to "shove off".

Mr Rogers also claimed that a "Green Goddess" reversed into his car as he arrived at the fire with his two colleagues, but a ministry spokesman said an Army Land-Rover braked and Mr Rogers's car collided with the back.

Our Labour Staff writes: An early end to the strike, now entering its sixth week, rests on talks in London today between strike leaders and the local authority employers. Whatever the outcome, the strike will continue over Christmas because a delegates' conference will have to be called to consider any proposed peace formula.

Ban is urged on advertisements about fostering

By a Staff Reporter

Advertisements placed privately for fostering children should be prohibited, an article says in this month's issue of Adoption and Fostering, the journal of the Association of British Adoption and Fostering Agencies.

Mrs Pat Stapleton, assistant director of the United Kingdom Committee for Unicef, says analysis has shown that more than half the would-be foster-mothers who answered advertisements in one periodical were known to the local authority and regarded as unsuitable.

Drug abusers took their friends to surgery

Continued from page 1

retreated, reeling slightly, down the street.

Dr Amster finally allowed me into her surgery after a discussion on her doorstep during which she still did not seem to remember the telephone call.

She admitted her memory was not good, but I also gained the impression that she seemed confused at times and her grasp of English (she was born in Czechoslovakia) seemed to be slipping. She also appears to be slightly deaf and has to be addressed slowly and clearly.

Dr Amster took over the practice in the 1950s and at one time had 2,500 patients in a "nice practice". She began to get into difficulties with drug abusers after striking up a friendship with one of her patients who did her small kindnesses.

That patient seems to have encouraged drug abusers to go to the surgery, and at one point was letting them in to see her against her wishes.

Dr Amster said: "Sometimes there were eight or ten in the waiting room. They came one, two, three at a time, asking for tablets, tablets. They wanted Ritalin, Ritalin, and they stood here and would not go away".

Few of the younger people were from the local area. She said: "They were from the West End, from Piccadilly, from W2".

Money was taken from her desk, a television set disappeared and other things were taken from rooms in the house. Recently she said the police had come to see her twice. "Now I have left the National Insurance and today I have made myself a promise that I will not give them any more prescriptions."

While we talked the telephone rang. It was another drug abuser who claimed he was ready to go straight round in a taxi. The doctor took the telephone off the hook.

Dr Amster said she remembered the name of the drug abuser who died, although she did not know of his death. She had treated him several times, but she could not recollect what she had prescribed for him.

Then the doorbell rang. We went to the door and Dr Amster said she knew a young man peering through the slightly opaque glass.

He was allowed in and Dr Amster said she could not give him a prescription. He said he understood that, and hovered in the hallway.

Once seated by the doctor's desk, the man, an Irishman aged 21, said he wanted a repeat of a previous prescription. He asked for Diconal, which he wanted for depression and migraine.

He gave no name or address and pleaded with "Irene" to give him the prescription because he was about to go back to Ireland in the afternoon. He said he had gone to the surgery a few weeks before and had been recommended by someone called "Christine".

Dr Amster refused to give him a prescription; then the man said he was prepared to pay £20. She still refused, and he offered her £27, which was all he said he had with him. Still she refused, but the man showed no inclination to leave.

He argued that he would not get the doctor into trouble and would make sure he took the prescription to a chemist outside the area.

Eventually the doctor and I showed him to the door and he left, joining another young man who had been waiting near by. As I left shortly afterwards, another young man was trying to get in to see the doctor.

There are three offences which a doctor can commit under laws that came into force in 1973. He can be accused of irresponsible prescribing of controlled drugs, failing to notify the authorities that he has treated an addict or a suspected addict, and prescribing heroin or cocaine without a licence to an addict who has no organic disease.

In normal circumstances a report is drawn up and submitted to a tribunal consisting of five people. The chairman is a barrister and the other four are doctors.

The tribunal can recommend the Home Secretary to make a direction preventing a doctor from prescribing certain specified drugs. Chemists are told they must not honour prescriptions for such drugs.

Since 1973 two directions have been made for the offences involving addicts. One case is awaiting the tribunal.

The procedure takes about 13 weeks from the referral of a report to the making of a direction. No temporary direction has been made, since doctors usually stop once they have been warned, but even that procedure requires a panel to sit and time for the doctor to arrange his defence. In the meantime he can still issue prescriptions.

Changes in the law on wills are suggested

By Our Legal Correspondent

The Law Reform Committee has published a consultative document on the possibility of reforming the law and procedure on making and revoking wills, some of which dates back more than a century.

The committee asks a number of questions on which it invites comment and evidence. Should one witness to a will be enough, instead of two? If two witnesses are to continue to be obligatory, should there be a change in the rule that both must be present simultaneously when the will is signed, and that they must sign in the presence of the testator?

The committee discusses whether a court should have a general dispensing power to allow a will's validity if it is satisfied that it represents the true and freely expressed wishes of the testator, even though it does not satisfy all the statutory requirements.

The committee also asks whether the rule prohibiting a witness from taking any benefit under the will should be abolished, as going too far in invalidating gifts to innocent beneficiaries.

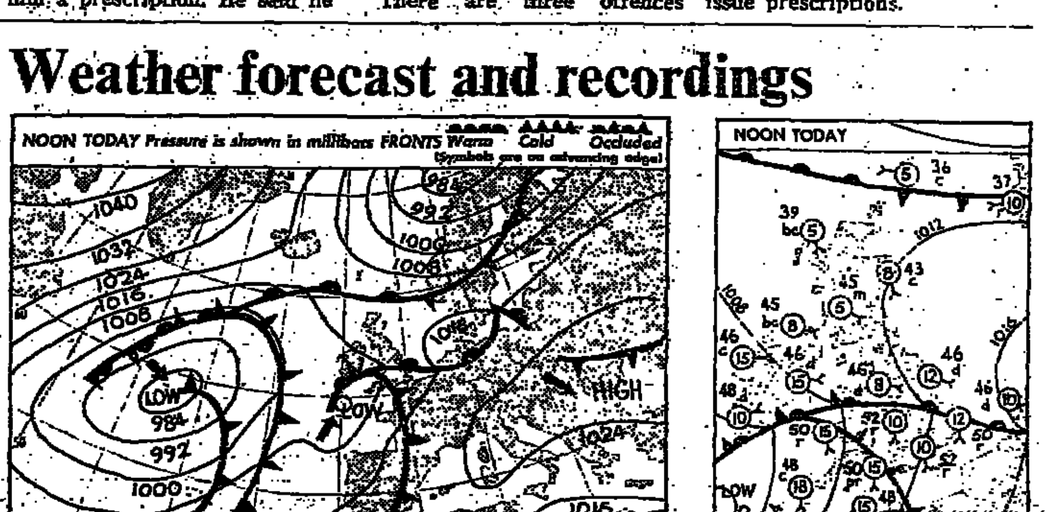
Copies of the consultative document can be obtained from J. A. C. Watherston, Law Reform Committee, Lord Chancellor's Office, House of Lords, London, SW1.

TV programme for Mr Taverne

A new weekly political programme from Associated Television is to be presented from January 9 by Mr Dick Taverne, QC, who was MP for Lincoln for 12 years. It will be called Left, Right and Centre.

Mr Taverne, who is director of the Institute for Physical Studies, held Lincoln for Labour from 1962 to 1972, when he resigned and for his own Democratic Labour Party from 1973 to 1974.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today

Sun rises: 8.3 am. Sun sets: 3.53 pm
Moon sets: 1.40 am. Moon rises: 12.52 pm
Full moon: December 25.

Lighting up: 4.23 pm to 7.33 am.

High water: London Bridge, 8.9 am, 6.2m (20.3ft); 8.57 pm, 6.3m (20.5ft). Avonmouth, 1.40 am, 10.6m (34.8ft); 2.20 pm, 10.8m (35.5ft). Dover, 5.44 am, 5.8m (19.0ft); 6.34 pm, 5.6m (18.3ft). Hull, 12.19 am, 6.2m (20.5ft); 1.21 pm, 6.0m (19.7ft). Liverpool, 6.10 am, 7.6m (25.0ft); 6.36 pm, 7.8m (25.7ft).

A rather mild, S airstream persists, but a further trough is expected to move N over England and Wales.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, East Anglia, E Midlands, Lake District, NE, central N and E England: Fog patches early, generally cloudy, rain later; wind S to SW, light; max temp 10°C (50°F).

W Midlands, SE, central S and NW England, N Wales and Isle of Man: Cloudy, a little rain, perhaps some heavier rain at night; wind S, moderate; max temp 11°C (52°F).

SW England and S Wales: Cloudy, periods of rain, heavy in places; wind S, moderate or fresh; max temp 12°C (54°F).

Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, central Highlands, Moray Firth, and Argyll: Fog patches early, mainly dry, becoming brighter; wind SW, light or moderate; max temp 6°C (43°F).

SW Scotland and N Ireland: Cloudy, rain spreading from S; wind mainly S, light or moderate; max temp 7°C (45°F).

NE and NW Scotland, Orkney and Shetland: Cloudy, rain in places, snow on high ground; wind SW, moderate or fresh; max temp 4°C (39°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: Continuing unsettled with rain at times, but also bright intervals; patchy overnight fog; generally mild.

Sea passages: S North Sea and Strait of Dover: Wind S, moderate or fresh; sea slight.

English Channel (E): Wind S, fresh; sea moderate.

St George's Channel: Wind SE, light, increasing to strong; sea rough.

Irish Sea: Wind SE, light, increasing to moderate; sea slight.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Akrotiri	r	17	63	Cardiff	c	10	50	Jersey	c	8	46	Munich	fog	[illegible]	[illegible]
Algiers	s	18	64	Chicago	c	[illegible]	[illegible]	L Palmas	f	20	68	Naples	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amsterdm	f	6	43	Cologne	f	6	43	Lisbon	r	13	55	New York	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Athens	c	7	45	Copenhgn	f	5	41	Locarno	s	[illegible]	[illegible]	Nice	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Barcelona	c	13	55	Dublin	c	8	46	London	f	11	52	Oslo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Beirut	s	18	64	Edinburgh	c	5	41	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Saturday

London: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 7°C (45°F). Humidity 6 pm, 84 per cent. Rain, 24 hr to 6 pm, a trace. Sun, 24 hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,025.4 millibars, steady.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 11°C (52°F); min 6 pm to 6 am 7°C (45°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 84 per cent. Rain, 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.25in. Sun, 24 hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,018.8 millibars, rising.
1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

Overseas selling prices [illegible]

هكذا من الاصل

HOME NEWS

Rail unions to have more say in running of pension fund which spent £11m on works of art

By Alan Hamilton

The railway unions are to be given more say in the management of British Rail's controversial pension fund, which has been criticized for investing more than £11m in works of art that may now be worth less than their purchase price.

Union leaders will shortly consider proposals by the British Railways Board that they should take a more active part, and in greater numbers, in the day-to-day management of the £478m fund, including taking part in subcommittees that buy and sell the investments, including paintings.

Some union leaders, including Mr David Bowman, outgoing president of the National Union of Railwaymen, and Mr Ray Buckton, general secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, have expressed concern that the fund managers are dabbling in the highly volatile art market.

This year alone the fund has spent more than £3m on works of art, making it one of the largest private collectors in the world.

Mr Bowman has said that the fund may stand to lose a substantial sum from its art purchases. He feels that the money would have been more appropriately invested in British industry, where it could have helped to create new jobs.

Many of the fund's purchases are still hanging in museums and galleries throughout Europe, but much more is stored out of sight in a warehouse in Conduit Street, London.

But there are no signs of any serious pressure from the rail unions for a substantial change in the pension fund's investment policy. Union leaders are privately taking the view that as the art collection represents only 3 per cent of the fund's total investments there has been no serious case of mismanagement.

Besides, there is no great demand on the fund from railwaymen. It was set up in 1967, and under British Rail pension rules employees have to belong to a fund for 40 years before they can draw full pension rights.

As a concession members of the fund, who include most British Rail employees, are allowed to add a notional seven years to their service. The maximum that anyone can claim from the fund is 17 fortieths of the full pension rights.

The unions therefore hope that when the fund is paying out full benefits in 30 years' time the value of its art acquisitions will have increased considerably.

The National Union of Railwaymen said yesterday: "What we need are long-term investments to protect our members' interests in the future." The question of getting the pension fund to pull out of the art market had not even been discussed by his union, he said.

The pension fund is managed by a board comprising 12 members of the British Railways Board and 11 rail union officials representing the pension fund members. An investment committee of three members from each side dictates overall investment policy, but fund members, through their unions, have no say on the subcommittees which invest the money.

Purchases surrounded by secrecy

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

The fact that the British Rail pension fund had invested a small proportion of its funds in art on the advice of the London-based auctioneers, Sotheby Parke Bernet, first became known in December, 1974.

It was the first time the City's vast resources of managed money had successfully been tapped for spending on art and, as far as is known, that initiative remains unique.

It came during the oil crisis, which had brought a big recession in the art market.

The fund's first purchases were at Sotheby's important autumn Old Master paintings sale and included a Tiepolo oil National Gallery, at £195,000, sketch, now on loan to the and two fine architectural views by Pannini.

Since then the pension fund and Sotheby's, their advisers, have attempted to surround both purchases and the manner of operation of the venture with secrecy. But the art market is addicted to gossip and information has slipped out.

It is known, for instance, that the fund bought Picasso's "Blue Boy", a gouache now on loan to the Victoria and Albert Museum, in New York last year for about £560,000.

It is believed to have made several purchases last Mey when Sotheby's sold the contents of Mentmore Towers on behalf of Lord Rosebery. A fine Louis XV marquetry secretaire by Bernard van Risenberg II, which was bought in on behalf of Lord Rosebery at £280,000, is believed now to belong to the pension fund.

It is not apparently envisaged that any sales from the art portfolio will take place for at least twenty years. As wide a spread as possible over all important fields of art and antiques is also being sought, so that adverse shifts in fashion in one field will be counterbalanced by improvements in others. The fund concentrates on items of top quality.

The spread is known to include early Chinese porcelain, eighteenth-century sculpture, furniture, pictures ancient and modern, manuscripts and Old Master drawings. Many of the best items of the Ellesmere collection recently auctioned at Sotheby's are among the fund's purchases.

Sotheby's were considered the ideal advisers for the venture because of the wide spread of expertise contained within the one firm. Each department, when a big sale is coming up, prepares a dossier for British Rail on the items recommended for purchase.

The historical importance of the items are explained and Sotheby's suggests a maximum price at which the items would be a sound investment.

The suggestions are passed on to British Rail through Mrs Annamaria Edelstone, who used to edit Sotheby's glossy annual, *Art at Auction*, but now manages the art fund. The experts making the suggestions do not always know whether they have been acted on, and sometimes complain that British Rail has bid more than was advised.

The secrecy surrounding the purchases makes it impossible to assess how wise they have been; they are now said to total about 600 items. What is clear, however, is that the arrangement has been very beneficial to Sotheby's.

When Sotheby's accepts important works of art for sale, large commissions can be earned if a buyer is found. The higher the price the fewer potential buyers there are, and British Rail's presence can be very useful.

Dons reverse decision on 'Marxist' report

From Judith Judd of *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, Edinburgh.

University teachers voted on Saturday to condemn a campaign which, they say, is being directed against Marxists in higher education in the wake of the Gould report.

At a stormy session, the Association of University Teachers' council meeting at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, reversed its previous night's decision to reject a motion deploring the report, *The Attack on Higher Education*, by Professor Julius Gould, of Nottingham University, which described Marxist infiltration of universities.

Amid shouting and heckling the council accepted a motion from the Open University which said that the publicity the report had received gave the impression of an orchestrated campaign.

"Council deplores the McCarthyite technique of smear and innuendo against named individuals and institutions which the campaign appears to be employing", it added.

Representatives from Nottingham University walked out after the vote, claiming that the principle of open discussion had been violated. They said that none of the amendments to the motion had been considered.

Professor Gould said yesterday: "The AUT council yielded to powerful left-wing pressures exactly as described in my report. It has made itself ridiculous by taking different decisions on two successive days."

Mr Cyril Snell, reader in civil engineering at Nottingham University and an executive member of the association, said: "We were very angry that academics could lend themselves to such opposition to the spirit of free inquiry, which is fundamental to academic life".

The entertainer: Mr Healey, the Chancellor, rehearsing for *Nationwide's* freely adapted version of *The Wizard of Oz* on BBC 1 tonight. With him in this scene at the wizard's castle are (right to left): Sue Lawley (as Dorothy), Richard Stilgoe (Lion), Bob Wellings (Straw man), and John Stapleton (Tin man).

Queues for Christmas Skytrains

By Craig Seton

An official of Laker Airways yesterday urged the Government to allow the airline to fly more than one Skytrain service to New York each day because of big queues for the £59 one-way tickets in the last few days before Christmas.

At a Skytrain office in Victoria station, London, on Saturday two British Transport policemen were called to help to control an angry crowd of nearly 200 people when it was realized that only a quarter of those queueing would get tickets for the flight that night.

Mr F. A. (Freddie) Laker, who introduced the Skytrain service, blamed the trouble on a few people attempting to jump the queue. Tickets are sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

Another 200 people, mostly Americans trying to get home for Christmas, were waiting quietly at the other Skytrain ticket office at Gatwick airport last night, hoping to buy tickets at 4 am today.

A Laker official said that some would not be able to fly on the 345-seat DC-10 until tomorrow night.

"There is no limit to the number of tickets anyone can buy, and some people are queueing to buy tickets for friends of their family. The length of queue is no indication of the actual number of passengers wanting to fly", he said.

Mr Laker said last night that after April 1 there would be no restriction on Skytrain frequency and capacity and the airline planned to have two flights a day. It would also be able to introduce extra flights.

Since Skytrain was introduced there had been 165 flights, of which only 10 or 11 had been full. Three of them had been in the past three days. He said: "If we had a licence where we could do as we liked, we could have planned to meet the demand."

Food price fall was first for 5 years

By Hugh Clayton

Food prices fell in the summer, and families paid 1½p in the pound less in the three months from July than in the previous quarter. The drop is recorded in the Government's latest National Food Survey, which is published today. It was the first decrease for more than five years.

The survey also shows that consumption of all foods in British homes is still falling each year, even though prices of many fresh foods were lower and quality higher than this summer than in 1976.

The results are alarming for the food industry, which is highly labour-intensive, with a workforce of 700,000. They confirm the industry's worst fears that even a cut in the food prices would not induce people to buy more.

Almost 2,000 households contribute to the survey, which measures consumption in the home. It shows that families were eating markedly less beef, white bread and fish late in the summer than a year before.

Householders did eat many more fresh vegetables, however, because they were much cheaper than a year before and many more were grown in home gardens. Consumption of convenience foods suffered accordingly.

Consumption of frozen vegetables was cut sharply as processors who had bought 1976 stocks at high prices watched prices of 1977 produce of excellent quality fall steadily throughout the summer. "Consumption of fresh green vegetables doubled between the second and third quarters of 1977", the survey said.

Food Facts No 9 (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Whitehall Place, London, SW1).

An MP 'has no right to demand publication'

Neither a member of Parliament nor anyone else has the right to demand publication of a letter, the Press Council says in an adjudication issued today rejecting a complaint made against the *Daily Mirror* by Mr Frank Allaun, Labour MP for Salford, East.

Mr Allaun said that the editor was under an ethical obligation to publish a letter from him criticizing a news report which, he said, was based on an untruth.

The Daily Mirror published an article by John Pilger saying that "the latest, most sophisticated torture to be used against Russian dissidents" was burning with mustard gas. He said that a Moscow man felt a sharp burn on his left foot as he was sitting in a crowded train. The hospital told him his socks had been sprayed with a chemical and it had been mustard gas, the report said.

Mr Allaun told the editor, Mr Michael Molloy, that it was "arrant nonsense" and he did not believe it.

Mr Pilger invited Mr Allaun to see, on the eve of publication when the man was safely out of the country, a photograph of the victim taken by a *Daily Mirror* colleague who had accompanied him to the Soviet Union.

Mr Allaun accepted the invitation and said he would be surprised if it showed the KGB dropping mustard gas on a man's foot in a "crowded bus".

Mr Molloy told the Press Council that Mr Allaun was neither expressly nor implicitly referred to in the series of articles on Russia and he could not understand on what grounds he felt the newspaper was under an obligation to publish his letter.

The Press Council's adjudication was:

The Press Council considers that publication of the letter was a matter for the editor's discretion and that neither a member of Parliament nor anyone else has the right to demand publication. There was no obligation on the editor to publish Mr Allaun's letter because he had not been personally attacked, and it was for the editor to decide whether to publish a letter critical of points made in a signed article. The complaint against the *Daily Mirror* is rejected.

Press award in memory of dead journalist

By a Staff Reporter

The Sunday Times yesterday announced a press award "for the best contribution to international understanding" in memory of David Holden, its chief foreign correspondent, who was murdered in Egypt 12 days ago.

To be created in 1978 as an additional award under the British Press Awards scheme, the David Holden Award will be given annually. It will be financed by the income from a fund, to be established partly by a contribution from Times Newspapers Ltd and partly by contributions from Mr Holden's friends or anyone who would like to pay tribute to him. The scheme has been approved by Mr Holden's widow.

Anyone wishing to make a contribution should make cheques payable to Times Newspapers Ltd, to be sent to the Company Secretary, Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 7, New Printing House Square, 192 Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1 8EZ. The appeal will remain open for about two months.

Harmonization wanted, not duplication

Agriculture

Hugh Clayton

Early in November the Government decided to exempt subscriptions to some trade associations from value-added tax, thereby saving the National Farmers' Union and the Country Landowners' Association some large bills.

Immediately afterwards the association issued a notice headed "CLA wins VAT battle", in which Mr James Douglas, secretary-general, said: "This decision by Treasury ministers shows that a well balanced and well researched argument can still achieve a favourable reaction from government."

The association had worked hard to discover that no other landowning organization in Europe was likely to have to pay the tax on members' subscriptions. It was therefore able to report triumphantly to HM customs and excise that if the tax was levied in Britain the sacred goal of harmonization under EEC rules would be missed.

When the exemption was announced the union also issued a notice. It was headed "NFU success" and in it Mr George Cattell, the director-general, said: "This most welcome government decision is in response to an NFU initiative, supported by the CLA."

The simultaneous release of the two victory proclamations raises two interesting questions. First, is it wise to treat government departments like fairground slot machines labelled "a prize every time"?

Secondly, if each organization is determined to appear to be not one among many contributors to victory but the principal one, will it not be forced to duplicate some of the effort and expense of the other? If that is so, may not the members of the NFU and CLA now be paying as much extra for that reason as they might have had to pay through VAT?

Early this month Mr Morris, Secretary of State for Wales, alluded to another case of duplication, which must help to raise the total cost of the national agricultural lobby. The full title of the National Farmers' Union is the NFU of England and Wales. There is, however, another organization called the Farmers' Union of Wales.

In the words of Mr Morris, "there are two unions in the same area, with the same aim of ensuring the wellbeing of the farmers of Wales; but each working as if the other did not exist."

He called for an effort by both unions, adding: "I stress by both unions", to try to establish a working relationship. "All I seek to propound is the principle of the need for an understanding", Mr Morris went on. He was sure that with good will in all directions the interests of Welsh farming could be served in peace and harmony.

The two unions immediately commended his statement. Each managed to echo and support his plea for a new attempt at compromise without volunteering anything definite towards it.

Duplication of effort and responsibility in agriculture is not confined to farmers and landowners, however. It occurs in government departments as well. Three years ago it was hard to decide where the responsibilities of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food ended and those of the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection began.

The battle about that boundary has subsided as Mr Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has become firmly established as the one responsible for protection of consumers against increases in food prices. The interest of his ministry is now beamed towards the Department of the Environment.

Powerful and respectable lobbies like the Country Landowners' Association, the Economic Development Committee for Agriculture and the Centre for Agricultural Strategy at Reading University all want the ministry to adopt a new role.

Today the ministry is one of the great counting houses of Whitehall sandwiched between the proposing zeal of the European Commission and the Council of Ministers in Brussels, and the disposing might of the Treasury at home. Next year there will be an accelerating campaign to turn the ministry into a department of the environment with important responsibilities for rural planning.

The main task of the ministry is to safeguard food supplies, and the Government has decided that one of the best ways to do that is to raise national output. The ministry might therefore be thought the worst agency for preserving the traditional appearance and fabric of the countryside.

A ministry charged with producing more food might be expected to want to flatten every mossy bank and build a broiler house in the middle of every scenic vista.

The introduction of a new element in the machinery of rural planning might simply increase complexity and produce nothing of value. Those who support a greater ministry role in rural planning insist, however, that the needs of food supply go by default simply because the ministry is left out of planning consultations.

Bodies like the Nature Conservancy Council and the Development Commission, which includes the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas, now "belong" to the Department of the Environment. A case for switching them to the Ministry of Agriculture will be made in the coming year.

If farmers think that there is any danger of duplication of effort and responsibility by the two departments, they can cite their own experience as a warning against it.

HOME NEWS

Doubts about place of British reactor in nuclear programme

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

The suitability of British-designed advanced gas cooled reactors (AGRs) for a third nuclear power station programme, under review by the Government, is seriously questioned in a new assessment showing that AGRs take twice as long to build as predicted and that their development has overrun by more than £1,000m.

Moreover, development money will be needed to redesign the reactors because they do not produce the power intended to make them competitive with other types of stations. Not one AGR is operating properly after the start of the programme more than ten years ago.

The accident to the Hunterston B station, closed in October after a few months of operation because seawater leaked into the cooling system, has also provoked a review of basic design.

Those are among the technical issues behind submissions to the Government to select the pressurized water reactor (PWR), which accounts for more than 80 per cent of the power station reactors in the world. The choice of the PWR would not resolve the immediate dilemma of the nuclear manufacturing industry, which has not had an order since 1970.

Hence the proposal by the Central Electricity Generating Board that the first move should be to order a new AGR to take pressure off the industry, but simultaneously to order a PWR to obtain experience with that system.

Other matters must be taken into account before making the final choice for the third programme of nuclear energy.

Advice to the Government from the generating boards, the Central Policy Review Staff ("Think Tank") and some manufacturers emphasizes that this is the fourth time a successful successor to the first generation of the British-designed Magnox power station is being sought.

The AGR was picked for a second programme of work in 1965; but against a background of troubles a review was undertaken by Mr Peter Vinter in which he recommended an overhaul of the industry before making a decision.

In 1974 a government decision favoured a third programme based on the steam generating heavy water reactor, which was an experimental system of the Atomic Energy Authority and has been informally dropped as an ill conceived judgment.

At each stage in the past six years proposals to adopt the American-designed PWR have been rejected. At the same time other countries have taken a licence for that system; German manufacturers have built an industry that has provided more than £10,000m of exports, and the French have made £3,000m from exports.

Those overseas orders from companies that have adopted the PWR are one of the main reasons for proposals that British industry must follow the same route. The AGR requires a different type of turbine and ancillary equipment from that of stations using PWR units. Hence, with the world domination of the PWR, the British manufacturing sector supplying the electricity generating industries could find itself with no future.

Battered wives Act 'not being enforced'

By Our Legal Correspondent

The intentions behind the Domestic Violence Act, 1976, designed to protect battered women, are being undermined by judges all over the country, according to the Legal Action Group.

The group, which has nearly 4,000 members, mainly lawyers, says it has received complaints from solicitors in many areas that county court judges have been unduly antipathetic to granting injunctions to exclude violent men from the homes they were sharing with their wives or cohabitees.

"This dislike does not extend simply to battered mistresses. Some judges appear to be very reluctant to exclude a husband, even in severe cases of violence".

Even where judges did grant an injunction against a violent man, they were unwilling to attach an order empowering the police to arrest the man if he disobeyed it by returning to the home, or again using violence against the woman or a child, the group says.

Ambulance go-slow

Sixty ambulance men in Bedfordshire are refusing to drive at more than 20 mph except in emergencies because of a dispute over working conditions. They will also operate a radio blackout from today except for emergency calls.

Ulster drive to reduce jobless total

By Ronald Kershaw

Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, has ordered the preparation of an economic plan for the province. It will be drafted initially by civil servants and then passed to the recently formed Northern Ireland Economic Council for its views.

Top priority will be given to unemployment, which is running at 11.6 per cent, nearly twice the national average on the mainland.

With the object of obtaining more work for existing industry, early thinking includes the possibility of attracting orders for Britain's nationalized industries to Northern Ireland plants.

The overseas orders frequently obtained in return for foreign aid handouts to developing countries could be diverted to Northern Ireland, instead of going to traditional manufacturers in fairly prosperous industrial areas of Britain, such as the Midlands.

Despite orders in the past five months amounting to £82m for two liquefied petroleum gas carriers and a new ferry from the state-owned Harland and Wolff shipyard, the 9,000 work force will gradually be reduced. About 2,000 to 3,000 job losses have been mentioned. Mr Mason, a former Secretary of State for Defence, is known to be exploring the possibility of pressing for the diversion of naval shipbuilding to the Belfast yard.

WEST EUROPE

Chances improved for quick negotiations on Greek entry to EEC

From Mario Modiano
Athens, Dec 18

The Greek Government, relying on a renewed popular mandate, this week resumes efforts to speed up entry negotiations with the EEC. Its chances of success are now greatly enhanced.

Mr Panayotis Papaligouras, the Foreign Minister, and Mr George Kontoyiorgis, the Minister without portfolio in charge of EEC affairs, left for Brussels today to attend the fifth meeting of ministerial negotiators tomorrow.

It is believed that the Nine, disarmed by Greek eagerness to join the Community at almost any cost, have taken the political decision to admit Greece promptly, but then to harden their attitude towards further applicants, mainly Spain.

Such a decision could have been induced by a feeling in West European capitals that the Karamanlis administration should not be let down, in view of the emergence in last month's election of the anti-EEC Radicals as the main opposition force.

Parliament passed a confidence motion in the Karamanlis Government by 171 votes against 126 early yesterday. The overall majority of 45 is large enough to keep the Government in power for the duration of the Parliament's four-year term.

It is against this background that the Greek delegation will be asking the Foreign Ministers of the Nine to accelerate the negotiating procedures by responding to the Greek proposals already submitted on most of the 11 topics under negotiation.

Mr Papaligouras also intends to ask the Community to proceed to full negotiations on certain Greek agricultural products such as wheat, cotton, rice and poultry meat, which do not come under the politically sensitive category of Mediterranean crops.

France and Italy are calling for a revision of Community priorities and protection for their Mediterranean crops, especially in view of the competition expected from Spain.

Greek officials hope that after the French general election in March, negotiations with Greece on agricultural products could begin in earnest.

French daily closes after life of only three months

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Dec 18

After just 77 issues, the bright new Parisian tabloid J'Informe has ceased publication. When it was launched in September, it had a first print order of 350,000, and the promise of at least two years of economic security. The launching with its attendant advertising cost 10 million francs (£1,100,000).

At its best it never sold more than 71,910 copies, but its sales for the last week averaged only 9,870.

The sudden closure of the paper provoked, almost inevitably, a sit-in by the staff of 60 journalists and the print unions are now trying to obtain maximum compensation for their 140 members. Nevertheless, in view of the *fait accompli* of the paper's closure they have little to negotiate with at the moment.

J'Informe was launched as a serious rival to *Le Monde*, which has been the runaway leader in this area of the press with a circulation of more than half a million.

It had high aspirations of doing what the French press never quite achieves—separating news from comment—and did have some success in producing informative background feature articles.

Nevertheless, its lack of resources made it difficult for it to compete internationally with the other serious papers, and hopes of finding and keeping 120,000 readers just could not be realized.

Nato plays down importance of Bonn spy scandal

From Ivan Barnes
Brussels, Dec 18

Highly placed Nato sources in Brussels have been at pains over the weekend to play down the latest Bonn spy scandal.

It is being suggested that newspaper reports have exaggerated the potential damage to Nato of the leaking of over 1,000 top secret documents from the West German Defence Ministry. This is despite the fact that the Defence Ministry and the West German federal prosecutor's office confirmed as basically correct the original report in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* last Monday.

The alleged spies—Frau Renate Lutze, once secretary to Dr Herbert Laabs, head of the Defence Ministry's personnel and welfare department, her husband, Lothar-Erwin Lutze, and Jürgen Wiegel, both ministry employees—were arrested 18 months ago. They are expected to go on trial next year.

After the first disclosures in the West German press, there were reports from Brussels of Nato officials being stunned by the damage done to the Western alliance by the betrayal. Nato sources were quoted as saying that the damage was irreparable.

Now, however, the position is being taken that damage to Nato interests is less than has been said in some reports. This is not very reassuring. Officials will not discuss in detail these supposed exaggerations, insisting that investigations are still going on.

It does not appear to be known for certain which of the documents were actually photocopied and passed to East Berlin.

There is sympathy in Brussels for the West Germans, but it is seen as yet another demonstration of the security risk West Germany represents to Nato.

Jorg Eipel collapses at the ringside at the end of his bout with Alain Marion.

German boxer in coma after losing title match

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, December 18

The West German boxer Jorg Eipel was in a deep coma in a hospital at Senlis, near Paris, tonight after losing a fierce battle with the French challenger, Alain Marion, for his European welterweight title.

The fight took place last night in a marquee put up in the market place of Creil, Marion's home town north of Paris.

Eipel, who is 20, was knocked down after a flurry of punches in the fifteenth round and staggered to his feet on the count of eight, only to collapse against the ropes.

He was taken to his corner and was put on a stretcher when it was found that his heart had stopped. A fireman gave him heart massage until a ringside doctor arrived and gave him a cardiac injection.

A preliminary examination has shown that Eipel has an injury at the base of the neck, possibly after falling against the ropes earlier in the bout. He had been punished quite heavily for much of the contest and from the twelfth round had seemed very tired.

Doctors have been studying a replay of the film of the fight for clues about how he received the injury. They have been unable to examine him properly because he cannot be moved.

The crowd in the marquee, which had been cheering its champion to victory through a long, hard fight, was unaware of the ringside efforts to save Eipel's life. It had seen a bout in which Marion took the battle to the champion from the start while Eipel, failing to produce any punch of note, had kept up his score by his speed.

Eipel was 19 when he won his title last April in a disqualification against the Dane, Jörgen Hansen. Last night's fight was the twentieth of his professional career and he had won 17 of them.

Spain to lift ban on the pill

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Dec 18

The Spanish Government has decided to lift the ban on the sale and advertising of contraceptives imposed by General Franco.

The Cabinet approved on Friday a new draft law to replace the articles in the penal code outlawing contraceptives.

For many years the stipulations of the penal code have been out of date. Many Spanish women take the pill and have been able to get round the laws easily.

Only last March a newspaper editor was charged with contravening the country's laws on disseminating information about contraceptives after he had reprinted an article on the subject from *The Sunday Times*.

San Marino turns to communists

San Marino, Dec. 18.—The two Captains Regent of San Marino, whose government has fallen, have invited the Communists to try to form a new coalition government.

The crisis began with the Socialist Party pulling out of a coalition with the Christian Democrats, the republic's largest party.

The Christian Democrats failed to muster any support beyond their 25 members in the 60-seat parliament, the Great and General Council, in their efforts to solve the crisis. In a bitter statement, they accused the Socialists of "abdicating responsibility"

The Communists, who have 16 seats, were called in and given until today to decide on a mandate to try to form a government.—Reuter.

Progress made in Lisbon interparty discussions

From Our Correspondent
Lisbon, Dec 18

Portugal is still without a government, 11 days after the fall of its first post-revolutionary constitutional Cabinet led by Dr Mario Soares of the Socialist Party.

President Eanes has asked the five parliamentary parties to come to some agreement among themselves to create a basis upon which a government may be formed.

For a year and a half Dr Soares's minority Socialist Government has ruled alone. Dr Soares's subsequent efforts to persuade the parties to come to a workable agreement with him failed. The President's efforts to create the conditions for forming a second constitutional government continued throughout this weekend.

During his four-day absence last week on an official visit to West Germany the opposition parties sent the President's office outlines of their own schemes for government for him to study on his return.

Since his return last Thursday, President Eanes has seen the leaders of the parties which had been in opposition to Dr Soares—the Social Democrats (the second largest party), the Christian Democrats, the Communists and the Popular Democratic Union, an extreme left-wing group.

The parties have also been meeting among themselves, particularly the Socialists and the Christian Democrats. Although these meetings have not been for negotiation but merely for preliminary discussion, there is a general feeling that some progress has been made. A certain lightening of political tension is noticeable.

Apart from the determination of the former Prime Minister not to share power with either the right or left, one of the main hindrances to any general interparty agreement has been the blank refusal of the Social Democrats and Christian Democrats to sit down to discussion with the Communists or take part in any government in which they were represented.

The Communists on the other hand, have continuously expressed their willingness for dialogue

The leader of the Christian Democrats, Dr Freitas do Amaral, stated after conferring with President Eanes, that there was no reason to stop interparty contacts.

"Very active efforts are being made so that the Portuguese people may be told by Christmas that a majority agreement is possible which will support a new constitutional government", he said. If not, early general elections must be called.

Progress is believed to have been made in talks between his party and the Socialists. The contacts continue today, and it is believed that a Socialist-Christian Democrat agreement is now more possible. Some observers even go so far as to envisage the possibility of such an agreement forming the basis of the platform upon which the second constitutional government will be based.

The National Council of the Christian Democratic Party is meeting near Lisbon today and President Eanes was due to receive delegations of the Socialist Party and of the Social Democrats.

Cardinal joins fight against Paris traditionalists

From Ian Murray
Paris, Dec 18

Cardinal Marty, the Archbishop of Paris, celebrated Mass today in the parish school of St Nicolas du Chardonnet, adjoining the Left Bank church near Notre Dame which has been occupied by Roman Catholic traditionalists since last February.

He told the 600 people attending Mass that he intended to go to "the limits of appeal of the justice of our country" to win them back their church. It was to prove his support for them and their priest, Father Jean Bellego, who assisted at the service, that he had come to celebrate Mass with them just before Christmas.

The church was supposed to have been handed back to the parish by the traditionalists after a court ruled in Father Bellego's favour in the summer. However, the traditionalists' only response to the court ruling was to stage a three-day permanent Mass in the church covering August 31, the date when they were ordered to leave.

Mgr Ducaud-Bourget, one of their leaders, has challenged the police to enforce the court ruling and to drag him and his followers into the street "to let the entire world know that the French Government has lent a hand to an iniquitous enterprise against right and morals, and against freedom".

It is, in fact, up to M Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris, to decide what to do about this flagrant breach of the court's order. He is not keen to make a martyr of the traditionalists so, if the church is to be won back for the parish, Cardinal Marty may well be forced to take judicial action himself.

While the cardinal held Mass in the school, the traditionalists in the church celebrated theirs in their own way. The old Sandstone building was packed and notices about the Christmas services on the doors showed that they were prepared for the holiday.

Yesterday, Archbishop Lefebvre, their spiritual leader, carried out a double ordination at Notre Dame du Pointet, near Vichy. In his address he said that people all over the world wanted to say the true Mass and teach it to their children.

Mgr Léon Elchinger, the Bishop of Strasbourg, in a commentary on the Pope's recent message to the church in France, said yesterday in an interview with *Le Figaro* that the Christian message had been deformed by doctrinal and moral laxity. This had tended to deprive the message of its authentic and vigorous force.

Normandy ferry dispute ends in agreement

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Dec 18

The dispute over the Normandy ferry, the Leopard, which caused a cross-Channel strike last week and a series of stoppages between Le Havre and Southampton, is over—at least for the time being.

The management agreed yesterday morning not to transfer the ship to British registration for a year, provided the men were prepared to accept 16 redundancies. The unions, who had earlier turned down an offer to keep the Leopard as a French ship provided there were 29 redundancies, finally decided to accept this offer.

The 16 redundancies will include eight officers, one seaman, and seven office staff. The officers meet on Tuesday to discuss the settlement

At the end of next year management and unions are to meet again to discuss progress made over the year. In the interim, the Merchant Navy Council is to meet regularly to keep informed about negotiations going on between the French and British Governments on harmonizing social security for seamen and on freight tariffs.

Town votes on changing Passion Play

Oberammergau, West Germany, Dec 18.—The people of this Bavarian town went to the polls today to vote on whether or not to replace what some *consider an anti-semitic* version of the local Passion Play.

Jewish groups abroad have objected that the version used for the century, written by an Oberammergau priest with the music composed by a village schoolmaster, portrayed the Jews as being solely responsible for the death of Christ.

The revised version, based on a 227-year-old script by Father Ferdinand Rosner and edited this year to remove what some considered anti-semitic passages, was staged experimentally six times last summer.

Herr Ernst Zwink, the mayor, said that some 3,600 people over the age of 16 had gone to the polls. But their decision may not be the final word, he said. It was merely arranged to help the 17 town councillors decide what version to pick for the next decennial production in 1980.—AP.

Corsica 'battle' to be stepped up

Ajaccio, Dec 18.—Corsican nationalists announced today that they will step up their fight for the island's independence from France and extend it to the French mainland.

Hooded members of the National Corsican Liberation Front told a press conference that the new phase will benefit from from "outside help" but refused to give details.—UPI.

222-yard Swiss cake

Pfaeffikon, Switzerland, Dec 18.—Six Swiss pastry cooks have baked a 222-yard-long cream-filled cake and sold it by the yard to help raise funds for Christmas decorations.—Reuter.

Basques threaten bigger home rule protests

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Dec. 18

Basque political parties are threatening to call bigger demonstrations by the end of the year in favour of home rule for the Basque country unless the Spanish Government agrees to fulfil its promises over implementing the terms of a negotiated settlement.

The Assembly of Basque Parliamentarians, made up of the elected representatives of all the Basque parties from the four northern provinces, ratified for the second time, at its meeting in Bilbao on Saturday, the text of its joint agreement with Señor Manuel Clavero, the Minister for the Regions.

The Ikurriña, the Basque National flag, was flown for the first time since the Civil War over the building of the Vizcaya delegation in Bilbao. This is a Francoist institution, which so far has resisted flying the flag.

The stumbling block is the province of Navarra. Under the agreement, reached last month after tortuous negotiations, Navarra, long identified with the Basque cause, would join the other three strictly Basque provinces in an autonomous region while retaining some of its own identity.

But now Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister, is refusing to recognize the agreement under pressure from the Democratic Centre Union, which is strongly represented in Navarra, but not at all in the other three provinces, where the Basque Nationalist Party and the Socialists are strong. The Democratic Centre Union in Navarra has refused to form part of the assembly.

The assembly said it would not alter a single comma of the agreement and that it was up to the Government to offer concrete alternatives, and quickly, otherwise it would call further demonstrations. Those already held have given rise to serious clashes with the police.

Historically, Navarra has long been associated with the main Basque provinces, although it was once a kingdom in its own right. It did not form part of the autonomous Basque state which was formed at the time of the Spanish Civil War, for while the other three provinces supported the republic the Carlist forces in Navarra took the side of General Franco.

As a result, after the war Vizcaya, Guipúzcoa and Alava suffered reprisals and fierce repression and Navarra became a right-wing bastion.

The "divide and conquer" policy of the Government over the Basque country, using the strength of the Madrid-orientated parties in Navarra, including the right-wing Popular Alliance, could have disastrous results, as the latest political killing in the Basque region has underlined.

Few doubt that the Basque separatist organization ETA, still relentlessly pursuing its violent policies, was responsible for the shootings. Señor Julio Martinez Ezkerro, a member of the Irun town council and of the Guardia de Franco, was shot on Friday night. ETA has not yet claimed responsibility. ETA killed the police chief of Pamplona, the capital of Navarra, last month.

While all the political parties represented in the parliament have roundly condemned ETA, the anger of these same parties at what they see as an unjustifiable backing down by the Government is something which ETA could easily exploit.

Today's leading article in *El Pais* said pointedly: "The Government's attitude of silence and postponement is being used by Basque extremists as definitive proof of their thesis, that the language which power understands is not that of negotiations, as it does not fulfil its pacts, but that of demonstrations."

The agreement reached is a delicate one between the different parties. Señor Juan Echevarria, congressional deputy for Vizcaya for the Centre, said: "The Government must be aware of the grave risk it runs if it withdraws some of its forces and breaks this unity."

One solution being suggested is a referendum in Navarra over whether the people want to join the other provinces.

هكذا من الاصل

Kidnappers free son of Cyprus leader after pledge of safe conduct

Nicosia, Dec 18.—Kidnappers released the 21-year-old son of *Lieutenant Achilleas Kyprianou*, the President of Cyprus, early today, six hours after the expiry of the latest deadline they had set on his life, in return for safe conduct out of Cyprus for *their gang leader*.

The Government had rejected the kidnappers' demand for an amnesty for imprisoned or detained members of the Eoka-B terrorist group, which is campaigning for political union of Cyprus and Greece.

Mr John Christofides, the Foreign Minister, said Lieutenant Kyprianou was released after more than three days of secret bargaining with his captors near Limassol in southern Cyprus.

He said that the gang leader, earlier identified by a senior police officer as Mr Vassos Pavlides, nicknamed "the doctor" and an Eoka-B chieftain in Limassol, was promised safe conduct out of the island.

Lieutenant Kyprianou was abducted at gunpoint on Wednes*day night* and the kidnappers set two deadlines for his death unless his father capitulated. President Kyprianou refused to comply, declaring that the interests of his country came before the life of his eldest son.

The last deadline ran out at 10 pm (20.00 GMT) last night and Lieutenant Kyprianou was released at about 4 am (02.00 GMT) today.

Heavy rain delayed his return to Nicosia. He arrived in a police car to the cheers of thousands of Greek Cypriots and the emotional embraces of his family.

He had been held in a hideout "somewhere in the hills" near Limassol, reached by dirt track from the main road between Limassol and Nicosia.

Dressed in his commando uniform and a green beret, he *smiled broadly at the crowds* and said he was feeling "just fine".

President Kyprianou addressed the crowds through a loudspeaker, saying: "This is a *great day for us* because our son has been freed by his kidnappers. It is also a great day for Cyprus, because love has prevailed over violence."

The President said the Government *would be lenient* toward the kidnappers, but added: "It will be ruthless if such incidents occur again. Because such acts of violence undermine our struggle and give food to our enemies, they must be stopped."

His mother, Mrs Mimi Kyprianou, said at the President's home: "Now I can smile after three days and nights of untold agony."

A large crowd of friends, relatives, well-wishers and reporters waited outside the Kyprianou residence for the hostage's homecoming.

The secret negotiations *through intermediaries were in*tensified yesterday as the kidnappers' deadline approached. Officials kept secret the identity of the go-betweens, but sources close to the President's office said they were led by Mr Kyriakos Saveriades, a lawyer who served as a minister in the short-lived regime of Nikos Sampson after the coup in 1974.

President Kyprianou presided over *two joint sessions* of his Cabinet and National Council yesterday before going home to await developments.

Although Mr Pavlides, wanted by police for terrorist activities before 1974, is the only kidnapper publicly identified so far, police said five men were involved.—UPI.

'I am ready to die,' writes kidnap victim

Montoneros terrorists blamed for seizure of French nuns

From Andrew Tarnowski
Buenos Aires, Dec 18

The abductors of two French nuns, seized here more than a week ago, belong to the neo-Peronist Montoneros terrorist organization and are holding *them to exert pressure on the* church and the Argentine and French Governments, according to an Army communiqué.

The kidnappers have set a Christmas Eve deadline for the fulfilment of four conditions laid down for the release of the nuns, informed sources said.

The two nuns, from the Congregacion of Foreign Missions based at Notre Dame de La Motte in Muret, France, have been in Argentina for about 20 years. They are Anne-Marie Domon, known as Sister Alicia, who is 41, and Renée Duquet, known as Sister Léonie, who is 62.

The sources said that Sister Alicia had declared that she was ready to die in a letter accompanying the kidnappers' demands.

Sister Alicia has helped to trace persons who have disappeared since last year's military coup. She was among 10 *people seized by armed men* in six unmarked cars outside a Buenos Aires chur[ch] on December 8. Sister Léonie was abducted two days later.

The French Government has *made three strong protests* to the Argentine Foreign Ministry about the abductions, and the United States has expressed serious concern.

On Friday the Government *blamed the abductions on* "subversive nihilists insistent upon hatred and destruction".

Yesterday an Army communique directly attributed the kidnappings to the Mon*toneros*, on the basis of an alleged clandestine message from the Montoneros to the local office of Agence France-Presse.

It came by post in a package including a photograph of the nuns, with the crossed lance and rifle flag of the Montoneros behind them, and holding a local newspaper dated December 14, as well as a photocopy of a handwritten letter from *Sister Alicia* to a French priest.

The message was stamped with the Montoneros insignia but unsigned. It demanded a public condemnation of the Government by the church in Argentina, a similar statement by the French Government, and asylum in France for Argentine political refugees.

The two nuns would be freed after these conditions had been fulfilled, it said.

It also demanded the release by Christmas Eve of 21 people, including two former provincial governors, a human rights campaigner, and other people held on charges of corruption or links with terrorism.

In her letter, however, Sister Alicia said that she had been seized "by a dissident group of the actual Government of R. Videla". Some observers here believe that many abductions have been carried out by freelance hardliners to embarrass President Jorge Rafael Videla, whom they regard as too liberal.

Paris: A spokesman for the Montoneros denied that the movement had any part in the kidnapping of the nuns and accused the Argentine Government of abducting them.

Major-General Mogharebi in court during his trial.

Plea to Shah by general in spy case

Teheran, Dec 18.—The Iranian Major-General, Ahmad Mogharebi, convicted of spying for Russia and sentenced to die before a firing squad, today appealed to the Shah for mercy.

Earlier today a military court upheld his death sentence passed by a special tribunal.

General Mogharebi, who is 56, testified that a Soviet diplomatic attaché blackmailed him nine years ago, threatening to disclose his 25-year-old association with the outlawed Iranian Communist Party if he refused to spy for Moscow.

The name of the country for which the general spied was in the indictment but was not mentioned during the trial. "With an 1,800-kilometre common frontier with the Soviet Union, they preferred to be diplomatic", a court source said.

Dozens of Iranian officers were executed by firing squads in 1954 for their membership of the Communist Party. At that time Mogharebi was among those arrested, but he was released for lack of evidence.

The Shah has 10 days to consider his plea, which he can commute to life in prison.—AP and UPI.

Six hurt in attack on Rhodesian resort

From Nicholas Ashford
Victoria Falls, Dec 18

One African was seriously wounded and another five slightly injured during a rocket and mortar attack last last night on this Rhodesian tourist centre on the banks of the Zambezi. The missiles were all fired from the Zambian side of the river.

The attack caused some damage to the Victoria Falls Hotel overlooking the railway bridge on which the talks between the Rhodesian Government and the black nationalists took place two years ago. The railway line close to the hotel was also hit. However, apart from a few minor cuts and bruises, none of the guests at the hotel, which was fully booked with holidaymakers, was injuerd.

The attack came after I had visited the local Rhodesian African Rifles company which is responsible for the defence of the Victoria Falls area.

According to Mr Kelsey Young, a Government official who accompanied me during my visit, the attack began shortly after 10 p.m. when the brightly lit hotel was in full swing with a band playing and guests enjoying an evening barbecue on the lawn in front of the hotel.

The first rocket hit a tennis court, bounced off the surface and richocheted into the side of the hotel, damaging the wall and shattering windows. The explosion broke all the glass of the cocktail bar inside the hotel.

Seconds later a mortar bomb hit the railway line at the rear of the hotel. Off-duty troops drinking in the bar picked up their weapons and took up defensive positions *ronud the hotel. Guests were* ordered to lie down in the corridors and the hotel lights were turned off.

There was no panic and within hauf an hour of the attack the bars and casino were back in operation again.

Between 30 and 50 mortars, rockets and recoilless rifle shells were fired during the attack, which lasted 25 minutes.

They fell over a wide area, some of them landing in the African location outside the town and others exploding harmlessly in the bush.

Several mintues after the attack began the Rhodesian mortars went into action. Two of the positions on the Zambian side were quickly silenced, but another situated close to the Zambezi gorge remained in action for some time.

The local population of this small, attractive town has grown almost accustomed to such attacks. The town's motel has been hit twice, both times by guerrillas of Zipra (the army belonging to Mr Joshua Nkomo's wing of the Patriotic Front) operating from inside Rhodesia. One person was killed during the first attack.

Last month Rhodesia's most luxurious hotel, the Elephant Hills Country Club, situated about one mile outside the town, was hit by a rocket fired from Zambia and badly damaged.

Victoria Falls now gives the impression of a town under siege. It is necessary to travel in a convoy protected by an armoured car from the town to the airport about eight miles away. Motorists bound for Wankie or Bulawayo are told to put their foot down and not to stop until they reach their destination. All traffic has to be off the road by 4 pm.

Despite this, however, Rhodesian visitors *still flock* to the falls determined to enjoy themselves. The roulette wheels spin, the swimming pools are crowded, and tourists stroll along the edge of the Victoria Falls gorge which in some places is only about 200 yards from the Zambian side.

Even the Elephant Hills hotel, despite its burnt out top floor, continues to cater for visitors who come to use its sports facilities and its championship golf course. According to one golfer, the only real hazard of playing there is a large crocodile which lies in wait for players walking along *the eighth fairway*.

The latest incident between Rhodesia and Zambia comes amid unconfirmed reports of an exchange of prisoners between the two countries.

Prospect of Begin visit eclipses Cairo talks

From Edward Mortimer
Cairo, Dec 18

The Cairo conference lay becalmed today for the third day running, waiting for a wind from Washington. It is officially to resume tomorrow but its activities have been eclipsed by the prospect of the arrival in Egypt of Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, for a meeting with President Sadat.

Mr Sadat told an Italian journalist today that the meeting would take place on Wednesday, but Mr Begin was reported as saying in Washington that it would be either on Thursday or at the beginning of next week.

In a press conference yesterday Mr Sadat made it clear that this would be a short working visit, intended to "put the final touches to the next move in the Cairo conference", rather than the return visit for his own journey to Jerusalem last month.

Mr Sadat explained that he had told Mr Begin in Jerusalem that it would be difficult to give him a triumphant reception in Cairo so long as Israel was occupying Arab territories. But "matters have changed since. Mr Begin is coming to *tell me what he intends to* do regarding the coming step".

So far, Mr Sadat went on, "I cannot say there is a development on the Israeli side, and like the whole world I am waiting for the response of Premier Begin to my visit to Jerusalem". He still insisted on the return of all the Arab land occupied by Israel in 1967 and on the right of the Palestinians to their own state.

Mr Sadat was speaking after President Carter had telephoned him about the "peace plan" which Mr Begin brought to Washington, but before Mr Begin's second meeting with Mr Carter last night, at which he *obtained a guarded American* endorsement for the plan.

The general impression here is that Mr Sadat is not yet satisfied with what he has heard of the plan, but hopes he can persuade Mr Begin to improve on it in a face-to-face meeting.

Of the points in the plan leaked to the Israeli and American press (whether secretly or not) the one that has caused dismay here is the 20-year moratorium which Mr Begin *is said* to be proposing before the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are allowed to decide their own future, and before any refugees are allowed *to return* to any part of Palestine.

Sadat alternative: President Sadat said today he would resign if his current peace initiative ended in total failure.

In an interview with the Egyptian weekly, *October*, the President said: "If I fail partially we shall prepare a new struggle, but if the failure is total I shall present my resignation", he stated.

Bethlehem: Mr Elias Freij, the mayor of Bethlehem, telephoned Cairo today reestablishing a link broken 30 years ago.

Damascus: More than half a million people marched through the streets today to demonstrate their hostility to President Sadat's peace initiative. The march was called by the ruling Baath Party.

Leading article, page 13

Dr Sakharov barred from visiting prisoner

Moscow, Dec 18.—Prison camp authorities in Mordovia today barred Dr Andrei Sakharov, the physicist and Nobel peace prize winner, and his wife from paying an annual visit to Edward Kuznetsov, a defendant in the 1970 Leningrad hijack trials, according to dissident sources.

Dr Naum Maiman, a mathematician and member of the group monitoring Soviet compliance with the Helsinki human rights accords, told Western correspondents the Sakharovs had been given no explanation for the refusal.

Mr Kuznetsov was one of 11 defendants, most of them Jews, convicted in Leningrad in December, 1970, of *attempting* to hijack an airliner to Sweden in order to make their way to Israel.

He and Mark Dymshitz were *sentenced to death*, but the sentences were later commuted to *15 years in a prison camp under a severe regime*.

Mr Kuznetsov's prison journals have been published in the West.

Dr Maiman said the Sakha*rov's planned to remain at the* Potma camp until they are given an explanation of why they coud not see Mr Kuznetsov.—UPI.

Rawalpindi buses set on fire in pro-Bhutto riot

From Our Correspondent
Islamabad, Dec 18

Anti-Government demonstrations by People's Party workers in Rawalpindi today led to riots in which buses were set on fire and traffic held up for about three hours. Police were reported to have used tear gas.

Most of the local party leadership has been arrested, according to People's Party sources. They *added* that clashes between police and party workers had also taken place today in Karachi with several arrested.

The protests follow an injury to Mrs Musrat Bhutto, wife of *the former Prime Minister, Mr* Z. A. Bhutto, in an incident at Lahore sports stadium during a Test match between Pakistan and England two days ago. The injury is said to have been caused by police. Mrs Bhutto is still in hospital in Lahore. Her husband is facing trial accused of murder.

Hongkong, Dec 18.—Mr Hua Kuo-feng, Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, today met General Zia ul-Haq, the Pakistan military leader, and wished Pakistan "stability unity, strength and *prosperity*", the New China news agency said.—UPI.

Argentina claims progress in Falklands dispute

Buenos Aires, Dec 18.—Captain Gualter Allara, the Argentine Under-Secretary for Foreign Relations, said today that his recent talks with Britain over the Falkland *Islands*, were "*positive* and a step forward".

A joint communiqué issued after three days of talks in New York, in which the British team was led by Mr Edward Rowlands, Minister of State in the Foreign Office, said that a further round of ministerial talks had been agreed for the second quarter of 1978.—Reuter

Korchnoi puts off game

Belgrade, Dec 18.—The tenth game in the match between Boris Spassky and Viktor Korchnoi to find a challenger to Anatoly Karpov, the world chess *champion, adjourned on Friday* night and due to be resumed last night, was put off until tomorrow at Korchnoi's request.—Reuter.

Miss Pat Blair

Miss Pat Blair, deputy editor of the *Health and Social Service Journal*, who was quoted in a report on December 10 on the case of a British nurse jailed in Bangkok, wishes us to make clear that she herself was not at any time detained in prison.

Two kings meet in Riyadh

Riyadh, Dec 18.—King Husain of Jordan arrived here today for talks with King Khalid of Saudi Arabia and other Saudi leaders. Riyadh radio said that the talks would be on ways of ending Arab differences.

King Husain is expected to proceed tomorrow to Kuwait which, like Saudi Arabia, has been hoping to use its good offices to ease the discord in the Arab world created by Egypt's overtures to Israel.

Prince Saud *al-Faisal*, the Saudi Foreign Minister, told a press conference here last week that Saudi Arabia was withholding judgment on President Sadat's initiative. But the prince told an American visitor here last weekend that now was the time for solid efforts toward a Middle East peace and not for further dramatic gestures such as Mr Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

King Husain was expected to ask what the Saudi view would be if he continues to remain aloof from the current Cairo talks and what Riyadh thinks *about whether* and under what circumstances Jordan should get involved in the talks.—New York Times News Service.

Guerrillas seize Ethiopian base in Eritrea

Beirut, Dec 18.—A *spokesman* for the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) said today that its guerrillas had captured the Ethiopian stronghold of Adi Caieh, reducing to four the number of important Ethiopian garrisons in Eritrea.

"Our forces killed 600 enemy troops", the spokesman said. The number of Ethiopian wounded is estimated at 900.

Earlier today Mr Ahmed Nasir, the front's leader, made a similar report of fighting and casualties in an interview with a Khartum newspaper. Mr Nasir mentioned Adi Caieh but did not say it had been captured.

Adi Caieh is about 50 miles south of the Red Sea port of Massawa, whose suburbs were reported to have been captured by forces of the Eritrean Popular Liberation Front (EPLF) last Friday. The EPLF and the ELF are the biggest of the three liberation movements.

The capture of the strongly defended garrison would be likely to hasten the guerrillas' final assault on encircled Asmara.—Reuter.

Tanzania delay on opening border with Kenya

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Dec 18

Neither Kenya nor Tanzania is making any official estimate of the time needed to implement the agreement recently drawn up by officials from the two governments, which will eventually result in a reopening of the 500-mile land border closed by Tanzania last February.

Significantly, it was Kenya which first announced the terms of the joint agreement. Tanzania confirmed the text this weekend but said the border would not reopen until all the steps in the agreement were effected. The Tanzanians give the impression that it could well take months to reach this state, although the Kenyan view is that it could be achieved within weeks.

Tanzania closed the border after accusing Kenya of bringing about the financial collapse of East African Airways (which was jointly owned by Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda). Kenya denies this, but suggests that Tanzania used the airways crisis as an excuse because neither Kenya nor Uganda would accept *Tanzanian pressure for changes* in operation of the East African Community and the East African Common Market, which ceased to exist in July.

The Tanzanian aim in closing the border was simply to hit the booming Kenyan economy by cutting Kenya off from the Tanzanian, Zambian and Malawian markets. To a large extent this did happen although the latest trade figures show that Kenyan exports to Tanzania have remained at about half their previous level in spite of the border closure.

The first steps to be taken under the new agreement are for Tanzania to release the Kenyan light aircraft, road vehicles and other property trapped there when the border was closed. To *balance* this *move*, Kenya will free three Lake Victoria steamers from Kisumu, where they have been laid up for two years. The ships will then be based at *Mwanza in Tanzania* but will operate services to Tanzanian, Kenyan and Ugandan ports on Lake Victoria.

OVERSEAS

Power manoeuvres in China lead to talk of a split in leadership

From David Bonavia
Hongkong, Dec 18

The political situation in China—in which a "two-line struggle" has been superseded by complex power manoeuvres at the top—is giving rise to much speculation, some of which seems to have a foundation in fact.

Taiwan's propaganda organs have increased their campaign to present a picture of discord in Peking, but not all their evidence is mere invention. The basic situation as described by numerous right-wing Chinese organs, both in Hongkong and Taiwan, is that of a split between a faction supporting Chairman Hua Kuo-feng and one supporting Vice-Chairman Teng Hsiao-ping.

Foreign diplomats in Peking remain mostly unconvinced that either Mr Hua or Mr Teng would see any merit in a power struggle at this difficult moment of policy rethinking and social and economic reform. There are those, however, who believe that the seeking of revenge by old leaders, disgraced during the Cultural Revolution and now back in power, may take precedence over patriotic considerations.

Speculation about a growing factional struggle has been fuelled by a number of promotions and dismissals in the Communist Party and the armed forces, which seem to point to a degree of vengefulness on the part of some of those now in power. Mr Teng, who was disgraced for seven years after the Cultural Revolution and suffered the same fate for several months last year, is back in quite a senior military position.

The diplomat's doubts about a power struggle coincide with a degree of confusion in the minds of Chinese people, both inside and outside China, as to whether the present leadership is actually pursuing a course condemned by Mao Tse-tung as "revisionist", or whether it is simply developing his ideas farther. Most experienced foreign observers feel that Mao's ideas of the past two decades are being largely discounted by the present leadership.

Concern about this has been reflected in a recent issue of a new pro-Peking political journal published in Hongkong, which seems to be used as a mouthpiece for the supporters of Mr Teng. It has argued strongly that the rehabilitation of former high officials, some of whom Mao had censured personally, does not mean that the present regime is turning its back on Mao's policies. It claims that these people had reformed themselves and are to be compared with cured patients discharged from hospital.

Some Maoist elements, both Chinese and foreign, consider this to be sheer sophistry, made necessary by the decision not to denounce Mao himself in view of the embarrassment it would cause now that he has been embalmed in a Peking mausoleum.

Philippines choose further period of martial law

From Peter Hazlehurst
Manila, Dec 18

The Philippines opted for another period of rule under martial law, according to the initial results tonight of yesterday's national referendum.

Provisional results showed that more than 80 per cent of the voters gave President Marcos a mandate to remain in office and increase the scope of his powers.

Manila recorded a 90.7 per cent vote in favour of President Marcos tonight. The results from the 7,000 islands in the archipelago will reach the capital only later in the week.

Voting is compulsory and the electorate was asked to reject or endorse the regime. The relevant question was "Do you vote for President Marcos to continue in office as the Incumbent President and be Prime Minister after the organization of a national legislature . . ."

President Marcos did not have to contend with any substantial opposition. Mr Benigno Aquino, the only other Filipino leader capable of attracting widespread support, has been detained for five years and was sentenced to death by a military tribunal last month.

The underground Communist Party, suffered a decisive blow last month when its leader, Mr José Maria Sison was captured.

Memories of political instability, assassinations and a period of terror which preceded martial law in the early 1970s also swung the undecided voter in favour of the regime.

Summing up the feelings of many Filipinos, Mr Mario Lopez, a businessman, said: "I support Aquino but I will vote for Marcos because we want martial law to remain in force."

President Marcos's less radical opponents, including the former President Diosdado Macapagal, eminent lawyers and liberals, described the referendum today as "a farce."

Lions cause panic in Nairobi

Nairobi, Dec 18.—Game wardens have captured two lions out of a pride which roamed through part of Nairobi, killing horses and causing panic among residents.

The lions were shot with darts containing a sleeping drug last night by game wardens waiting in ambush when they returned to eat the carcasses of two horses they had killed

At least four other lions were believed to be still at large in the sprawling, wealthy suburbs of Langata and Kaen, a few miles from the city centre, and the hunt by game wardens continued.

The area is a favourite weekend spot for horse riding and picknicking, but those activities virtually came to a halt today. The authorities warned people to keep a close eye on children and domestic pets.

The lions apparently escaped from the nearby Nairobi game park.—UPI.

Malaysia ready to think again over Concorde

Kuala Lumpur, Dec 18.—British officials are expected to resume technical talks here tomorrow in another attempt to get Malaysia to lift its ban on the use of its airspace by Concorde.

The deadlocked negotiations will resume in the light of a positive statement yesterday by Tan Sri Manickavasagam, the Malaysian Communications Minister, that the door was still open for talks.

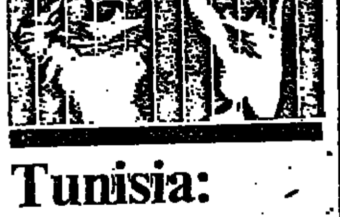
The thrice-weekly Concorde service from London to Singapore, inaugurated 10 days ago jointly by British Airways and Singapore Airlines, was abandoned on Friday after only three return flights because of the Malaysian objection on ecological grounds.—Reuter.

No blood spilt in US bullfight

San Francisco, Dec 18.—Bullfighting returned to San Francisco for the first time in 25 years last night.

Although no blood was spilt in the Portuguese-style fight, several animal protection groups protested at the event, sponsored by the St Elizabeth Catholic Church of Sacramento in honour of the Portuguese celebration of the festival of Our Lady of Fatima. It drew a much smaller crowd than expected.—Reuter.

Prisoners of conscience



Tunisia: Gilbert Naccache

By David Watts

Those who criticize the Government of President Bourguiba in Tunisia can expect little sympathy. Mr Gilbert Naccache was an agricultural student aged 29 when he was first arrested in 1968. He was associated with a Marxist-Leninist group of students and intellectuals who produced a publication called *Perspectives Tunisiennes* which was critical of the Bourguiba Government.

Mr Naccache was tried in September, 1968, before the state security court in Tunis with 133 other people. They were all charged with subversion against the state, forming an illegal association, and spreading false information.

During the trial torture was reported to have been used during interrogation. Police statements formed the basis of the prosecution and lawyers were prevented from conducting a proper defence. Mr Naccache received 16 years' imprisonment—one of the heaviest sentences of the trial.

In March, 1970, he was freed by a presidential pardon and put under restricted residence. Less than two years later, however, he was rearrested and detained incomunicado for two months during a crackdown on the left-wing opposition. He was later released, but rearrested in December, 1972.

Although Mr Naccache and his former associates had all been restricted since 1970 to remote villages, they were again accused of forming illegal associations and in March, 1973, Mr Naccache was sentenced to a year's imprisonment. At the end of this sentence he was not released and in April, 1974, the pardon of 1970 was withdrawn and his original 16-year sentence was reinstated.

Mr Naccache and his associates are being held in the Prison de Nador, Bizerta, where poor diet and lack of specialist medical care have taken their toll. Mr Naccache's condition is said to be particularly bad since he suffers from kidney stones, haemorrhoids and chronic digestive and dental troubles.

Dr Henry Kissinger: diplomacy from Bismarck to the age of instant communication

This article, a conversation between Dr Kissinger and Walter Laqueur, will appear in the first issue of "The Washington Review of Strategic and International Studies".

Mark Godfrey/Magnum

Laqueur: Your studies on nineteenth-century diplomatic history are, of course, well known. You now work on your memoirs. What specific problems do you face in your work on the contemporary period? Or, to be precise, what are in your view the main difficulties facing the contemporary historian, who, unlike you, was not a participant in the events he intends to describe.

Kissinger: I have been struck by the difficulties historians will have in forming reasonable historical judgments about the contemporary period. In the nineteenth century, communication between diplomats and their governments was very difficult and it was therefore necessary for the governments to give rather conceptual instructions and for the diplomats to explain the philosophy of their own actions. It was impossible for the participants at the Congress of Vienna, for example, to receive day-to-day tactical instructions on how they should conduct their negotiations. Historians can therefore read the documents—which are mercifully not all that plentiful—and form some impression of what the various individuals wanted to achieve.

Today communication is instataneous. There is no need for either government or ambassador to give an elaborate explanation of why certain things are being done. Instructions very often simply tell the diplomat what he is supposed to say at a particular session. One result is that an enormous amount of material accumulates that cannot possibly be studied by any one scholar. The instructions go out in so many different channels, and under so many different classifications that it will be next to impossible for somebody who has not been a participant to determine what was crucial and what was peripheral, what was written to keep the bureaucracy quiet, what was written for purposes of later disclosure, and what was written to be implemented.

A second result is that the documents do not provide a reliable guide to the ideas and passions of the participants. This will make it terribly difficult for historians and statesmen of the future to use our records as historians have used those of the past. Whether this will have a deleterious effect on statecraft remains to be seen, for the practice of diplomacy is not something that can be learned from texts, historical or otherwise.

Laqueur: It is difficult for the historian to unravel modern diplomacy. This again raises the reverse question, discussed endlessly and inconclusively: is the knowledge of the past necessarily of help to the statesmen?

Kissinger: Foreign policy is a form of art and not a precise science, something that some professors have great difficulty grasping. On the other hand, the conduct of foreign policy requires in each instance a recognition of comparable situations. We can talk forever about the "balance of power" or "legitimacy" or the "impact of personalities", and yet as every new case arises, that knowledge will be empty if one does not understand what the elements of power are, how legitimacy is conceived, and what the impact of structure on events can be. That requires an intuitive feeling, which can be partly taught from history but which is partly indefinable.

Laqueur: In other words, the statesman is seeking to solve the same type of question as the scholar, but without the benefit of leisurely analysis. But it is also true that the statesman faces problems of verification. More often than not he has to guess at the realities he is dealing with. If so, by what principles should he be guided in analyzing foreign policy and what are the main pitfalls to be avoided.

Kissinger: Yes. The statesman has to make a whole series of judgments that he cannot prove while he is making them. He has to deal with other units (whatever they are called—nations, regions, groups, institutions, continents) that are not necessarily subject to his will, and he therefore has to strike a balance between the capabilities of the other parties and their intentions. A statesman can escape his dilemma by assuming that the other party is always benevolent. If his judgment should turn out to be wrong, however, he may have produced something irretrievable. Consequently, one of the purposes of statesmanship must be to seek to restrict the significance of the other's intentions by one's own actions.

In the abstract, it might appear that it is better to gear policy to the capabilities of the other side rather than to its intentions. Yet if this is carried to an extreme, it leads to a policy that seeks empire or hegemony for oneself. The only way to be sure the other side is not capable of harming you is to reduce it to impotence. Absolute security for one side must mean absolute insecurity for all other sides. For example, the debate that often goes on, over whether the purposes, say, of the Soviet Union are defensive or offensive, could be beside the point. The key question may not be merely whether a country feels threatened, but what it takes to reassure it. If a country is only reassured by the impotence of all its neighbours, then the trend of its policies will be toward hegemony, whatever its motives may be. Defensive motives can therefore lead to aggressive foreign policies.

Any statesman must strike a balance between capability and intention. He cannot rely entirely on the goodwill of another sovereign state, because that would be an abdication of foreign policy. He cannot base his policies on physical preeminence alone, because unless he is willing to establish a world empire, this will only tend to unite his enemies and force him to attempt a cynical and dangerous policy of divide and rule, or other such measures. The structural problem of foreign policy is therefore to try to guarantee the relative security and therefore also the relative insecurity of all the parties. Along with this, some common sense of values must be found so that the participants will not constantly attempt to overthrow the international order.

The application of these principles depends on the conception of a sovereign unit, on what the sovereign units are capable of doing to each other, and on what these units want to do to each other. One tremendous change in the international system occurred at the time of the change from the eighteenth to the nineteenth centuries, when the feudal order broke down and the nation-state emerged. Every feudal ruler was threatened, no matter how benevolently he governed, not matter what his intentions were, because the concept of a legitimate political unit had changed. The same was true at the end of the colonial period. It is clear that all these colonies did not feel oppressed at every period in their history. A few thousand Britishers could not possibly have colonized India without the support of a significant proportion of the population. The change in values that made colonialism appear intolerable was brought in part by the colonizers themselves, and it must be recalled that the concept of an Indian nation was unheard of in the eighteenth century. The ideas brought in by the colonizers changed the concepts of legitimate authority, and therefore brought about a revolutionary situation for British rule in India. The same is true in many other parts of the world. If there is a change in the idea of a legitimate unit, you will automatically have a transformation of the international system and a period of upheaval; this is one of the problems of the contemporary period.

The second problem is what nations are capable of doing to each other. In the eighteenth century, it was a matter of total irrelevance whether China was hostile to the West or vice versa. There was no means by which they could interact with each other in any consistent manner. The technical capability for imposing the will of one region on another simply did not exist. The various regions of the world, therefore, conducted their foreign policy in virtual isolation from each other, without even any real knowledge of each other. Totally different styles of foreign policy were designed in the East and West. In Europe, foreign policy was based on a group of more or less equal sovereign states that balanced off each other's power. In Asia, foreign policy revolved around a hegemonial power, one country that dominated the whole region by its cultural and physical preeminence and which never had to think of balance of power as it was conceived in the West. And the conduct of foreign policy today, by China, for example, is quite different from that in the West.

Finally, any analysis of foreign policy must obviously include an evaluation of other units' intentions: what do they *want* to do to one another? But underlying this are the more fundamental dimensions of analysis I have described.

Laqueur: Any newsman who wants to write something even modestly profound about you and the ideas guiding you mentions the enormous debt you owe to Metternich. As a result there has been a veritable Metternich renaissance. I suspect you may not feel altogether happy about this; however intrinsically interesting the Metternich period, he was clearly, after all, within an international system that came to an end a long time ago.

Kissinger: The unfortunate problem for the "Metternich theory" is that I really wanted to write a book about Bismarck, and I only started writing about Metternich as a counterpoise to Bismarck in order to understand the context which Bismarck inherited. The discussion of Metternich grew so long, and I was drawn off into so many other things, that I never got around to finishing the Bismarck book, which is still only half written and was published as an article. So it simply isn't true that I was extremely influenced by Metternich, who operated under quite different conditions.

However, there are a number of aspects to that period that I found fascinating. One is that they managed to create an international system that lasted a hundred years, which is a lot better than any of their successors. Paradoxically, all of their successors said they were making permanent peace and they were lucky if it lasted a generation. The people who made peace at the Congress of Vienna thought they would be lucky if it lasted a decade, and it lasted a hundred years, which shows that statesmen are not always the best prophets.

The Metternich period had many of the elements that reappeared in later periods. Hundreds of feudal states were being consolidated into larger, national units, which meant that all the traditional power relationships had to be adjusted both physically and conceptually. As always in revolutionary periods, the emerging new forms existed alongside the old ones. Furthermore, when Napoleon's invasion of Russia failed, the question of a major war emerged, because it suddenly became conceivable to defeat French hegemony.

The American approach to war has always been that war and peace are discrete elements of policy: that you fight a war, you defeat your enemy, then you make peace and live happily ever after.

A problem emerged at the end of the Napoleonic Wars that was quite similar to the one that existed at the end of World War II. As the Russian armies entered central Europe, they became the dominant factor in European politics; the more territory they acquired, the greater their ability to determine the shape of the settlement. As the end of the Second World War approached, virtually no attention was paid to this issue, and the postwar world has, of course, been profoundly affected by the decisions about the location of lines of demarcation and the exercise of political control in areas occupied by military forces. It has taken us 30 years to establish some equilibrium on the continent of Europe, and even then it has required the permanent presence of American forces to maintain the equilibrium.

The chief actors at the Congress of Vienna would not permit any military operations to be conducted without having some political goals met. They did not fight a war for unconditional surrender; they fought a war in which Russia had to agree to some political structure as a price for military advance. In the postwar period these agreements limited the Russian capacity to impose their will. To be sure, this is not a very glorious way to fight a war, but it has the significant advantage of linking the bargaining that follows a war to the actions that occurred during it.

Laqueur: There are interesting lessons to be learnt about the relationship between legitimacy, equilibrium, and peace. But I am sure you will agree that the modern period in the history of diplomacy starts with Bismarck.

Kissinger: Of course. Without going into the specifics of his diplomacy, Bismarck essentially believed that an international system can be based entirely on the balance of power. The restraints that had been imposed by the common adherence to legitimate principles, along with the convictions that had developed since the eighteenth century, were so much baggage for him. Every state should be free to conduct its own policy based on its own conception of national interest. If it calculated correctly it would understand that there are inherent limits to its strength, and it would produce a rather moderate foreign policy. But at the same time it placed all its energies on the balance of power. Through extraordinarily skillful and extremely moderate foreign policy, Bismarck managed to create a united Germany and maintain the peace for about 40 years, even after upsetting the previous system.

Contrary to popular belief, a policy based on pure balance of power is the most difficult foreign policy to conduct. It requires, first of all, a constantly correct assessment of the elements of power. Secondly, it demands a total ruthlessness and means that statesmen must be able to ignore friendship, loyalty, and anything other than national interest. Third, it requires a domestic structure that will tolerate if not support this strategy. Fourth, it requires the absence of both permanent friends and permanent enemies, because as soon as a permanent enemy exists, freedom of manoeuvre is reduced.

After Germany defeated France in 1871, the German generals insisted on the annexation of Alsace-Lorraine, which caused Bismarck to say "I have achieved much more than I thought desirable in this war". He was correct: France became a permanent German enemy, and Germany's freedom of manoeuvre was greatly reduced. Indeed, the paradox of the German victory was that it, along with the German unification which followed, produced the very structural dangers that Bismarck sought to avoid. A united Germany was a threat to each of its neighbours its very existence forced them into an alliance. Subsequent German leaders tried to be "reliable" and consistent in foreign affairs, but this only compounded their problems, for the more rigid their policy, the more united their neighbours became.

All of this is crucial in understanding the great tragedy in Western history: the outbreak of the First World War. There was no reason that justified the enormous numbers of casualties inflicted, the destruction of material and human values, and the overthrow of practically all the political systems that entered the war. There was an unfortunate combination of circumstances. First, the entry of a major new power—Germany—into the international system produced a profoundly unsettling effect. This is inevitable, just as it is today in the instance of the growth of Soviet power. When a country acquires enormous additional resources of power in a relatively short period, it forces adjustments on the other participants in the system. When that country has mediocre leadership, unaware of the implications of their actions, the situation can become highly unmanageable. Bismarck's balance of power system rested on the existence of great European statesmen in every generation. Alas, most statesmen are mediocre, and it was not evil intention but mediocrity that produced the First World War.

Each of the European countries had drawn lessons from history that made a catastrophe highly likely. The Austrians, for example, decided that Serbia was like Sardinia, and that they had to knock it out before it organized all of the Balkans. All of them made military plans according to their individual judgments of history, and the military decisions ran away with political judgments in the end.

There is a lesson to this story, and it regards balance of power. A balance is important—perhaps even more so today than during Bismarck's lifetime—but if a balance of power becomes an end in itself it becomes self-destructive. A country without strength will become the plaything of forces out of its control, but a country that makes its decisions only on military grounds will be dragged into adventures with consequences it cannot foresee. We have to learn from World War II, when a preponderance of strength in one country tempted it to attack, but we also have to learn from World War I, when a balance of strength produced a war because nobody got it under political control and put it in the service of foreign policy.

Lacquer: Seen in retrospect, what was the purpose (if any) of the First World War and in what way did it constitute the "watershed" you just mentioned?

Kissinger: If there was any real purpose to World War I, it was that of destroying German hegemony, but the Versailles peace settlement was more favourable to German expansion than the world that existed previously. Before the war Germany had France on one side and Russia on the other, with Britain commanding the seas. After the peace conference, Germany came to be surrounded by weak successor states of uncertain domestic strength. None of them was capable of resisting Germany. Moreover, Russia—the Soviet Union—was no longer part of the European system, and the weak states were at least as afraid of the Soviet Union as they were of Germany. In short, the diplomats had paid insufficient attention to the structure of the post-war world.

The result was that French vigilance was the only hope for European peace. Peace could be preserved if France had a hair-trigger response and if Germany was permanently disarmed. France had the permanent obligation of becoming the policeman of Europe. But France had just lost two million young people—5 per cent of its population—in the war and was in no condition to carry out this role. Britain was even less inclined to police Germany, because the English had always supported the weaker against the stronger on the continent and were instinctively led to support Germany against France.

Given this political and military problem, the French built the Maginot line, thus guaranteeing that Germany sooner or later would become predominant in Europe. The Versailles agreement could only be maintained through an offensive French strategy, and as soon as the French withdrew behind the Maginot line, they invited the Germans to expand towards the East. The Versailles settlement was, as we all know, very onerous for the Germans and was bound to inflame Germany, but that is not the issue. The central point is that statesmen can misconceive their structural problems and their balance of power interests. When Hitler took over in Germany, he had a relatively easy task. He had only to rearm and reoccupy the Rhineland, and Eastern Europe lay defenceless before him. When France did not move following the occupation of the Rhineland, it was all over. From a structural point of view, it was just a question of time before Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Poland fell—and indeed a moderate German leadership would probably have brought about this domination without a world war. All of this stemmed from the Versailles agreement, which put a burden on France that could not be met.

Lacquer: And then there was the Second World War, another "watershed". But again, as in World War I, few if any people thought at the time of the structure of peace that would follow the war except perhaps in the most general terms of friendship, mutual trust, and the other noble sentiments mentioned in wartime programmatic speeches about the United Nations and related topics. If so, what are the "lessons" of the most recent period of history?

Kissinger: After World War II the problem of German hegemony disappeared, but another colossal country spread itself into the centre of Europe. In contrast to the period of the Congress of Vienna, none of the statesmen of the war years, except perhaps Churchill, gave any attention to what would happen after the war. Americans were determined not to discuss the postwar period while the struggle was going on. We were determined that we were going to base the postwar period on good faith and getting along with everybody. The victors in World War II would work together in the postwar period. I do not know whether anything else could have been done; we will probably never know. We do know, however, that practically no attention was paid to the issue of the structure of the postwar peace until the Soviet Army was in the centre of Europe. Once Eastern Europe was under Communist domination, for the first time in European history there was no chance to balance Russian power through European sources.

In addition to the sudden expansion of Russian hegemony, the elements of power became incongruous with each other. In the past there had almost always been a direct relationship between economic, military, and political power. It was very rare that a country could be very strong economically and very weak militarily. In the postwar world, it is possible to be militarily very strong and economically of moderate strength. It is also possible as in the case of Japan, to be economically very strong and militarily feeble.

What can be learned from history in the postwar epoch? You cannot learn how to handle the Middle East crisis that broke out in 1973, but you *can* learn from the structural problems that I have very superficially discussed. In each period we must decide which of these structural problems is relevant. History is not a cookbook which gives recipes; it teaches by analogy and forces us to decide what, if anything, is analogous. History gives us a feel for the significance of events, but it does not teach which individual events are significant. It is impossible to write down a conceptual scheme and apply it mechanically to evolving situations. Certain principles can be developed, certain understandings can be elaborated, but it is impossible to predict in advance how they apply to concrete situations.

It is dangerously arrogant to believe that foreign policy can be conducted effectively without knowing something of how other generations have faced comparable problems—the compromises they have had to make, how their best judgments turned out, and how limited human foresight is, even in the best men and under optimal circumstances. We always tend to think of historical tragedy as failing to get what we want, but if we study history we find that the worst tragedies have occurred when people got what they wanted . . . and it turned out to be the wrong objective.

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WORLD STEEL: INDUSTRY IN CRISIS

Industrial nations forced to rephase investment as over-capacity threat grows

Conditions in the world steel market next year are likely to be as bad, and possibly worse, than they have been for the past 12 months. In every major steelmaking country efforts are being made to cushion the impact of what promises to be the fourth year of the deepest steel recession for more than 40 years.

State intervention in the industry, through the provision of soft loans and direct subventions, is already an established feature. Despite the distortive and disruptive effects that such payments have on the steel market, social and political considerations will in the short-term, militate against an arms length relationship between governments and their steel producers.

The losses sustained by the big steelmaking groups are enormous. Italy's state-controlled steel group, Italsider, last week revealed that its losses are likely to absorb most of the group's reserves of Lire 500,000 million; British Steel Corporation is faced with losses for the financial year which ends in March, 1978, of at least £500m.

Since the increase in oil prices implemented by the Arab oil producers four years ago, the steel industry has wallowed in the deepening trough of recession. The traditional cyclical pattern of the industry has been disturbed and may never return to the old demand growth rate of 4 per cent a year.

Many of the investment plans which the steelmakers had made before the oil crisis have been shelved, but projects under construction at that time have continued to completion with the result that the problems of over-capacity has been made even more acute. The Brussels-based International Iron and Steel Institute estimates that steel industry capacity expansion worldwide between now and 1985 will be 43 per cent less than was forecast four years ago but capacity in the western world is expected to grow at about 1.5 per cent annually over the same period.

The steel industry needs to invest continually to keep pace with technological developments and to maintain its competitiveness. But the traditional steelmakers are now being forced to revise and recast their investment plans in the light of the expansion taking place among the less developed nations.

Helped by a combination of development aid and huge loans and technical assistance from the developed steelmaking countries (useful short-term export business) the countries of the Third World are expanding regardless of the all-too obvious over-capacity which already exists.

Equipped with the most modern plant available and aided by low labour costs, the emergent steelmaking nations are reducing the export opportunities for the industrialized steelmaking countries by meeting the requirements of their domestic markets from indigenous production. At the same time the low-cost steel produced in the emergent nations is an attractive and highly marketable product. This is, therefore, a major element in the global steel equation.

Investment and productivity are closely linked and within the traditional steelmaking countries there are wide differences in levels of performance.

Studies by the EEC Commission, for example, have shown that, last year, Britain produced steel at a rate of 30 man hours per tonne; Germany at 18 man hours per tonne and Japan (the most efficient and highly productive steelmaking nation in the world) at a rate of 4 man hours per tonne.

Calculations made by the United States Wage and Price Control Council as part of the American study of the steel industry's problems provide a useful guide to relative productivity among the established steelmaking nations.

Comparing the change between 1964 and 1975 the study showed that hourly steel industry employment costs in the United States in 1975 amounted to $11.10 (1964 = $4.61); West Germany $8.41 ($1.76); France $7.39 ($1.60); Japan $5.89 (0.85); Britain $3.92 ($1.37).

Output per man hour over the same period rose in the United States from $6.92 to $8.13 (a rise of 17.5 per cent); while for the members of the European Coal and Steel Community the rise was from $3.24 to $6.14; and for Japan from $3.51 to $9.35.

Unit labour costs in dollars per tonne over the 1964-75 period rose from $66.62 to $136.53 in the United States; for the ECSC countries combined from $49.07 to $116.45; and for Japan from $24.22 to $62.99.

It is against this background that the politicians and steelmakers have to take their decisions. No one doubts the pressing need for the British industry to achieve a dramatic improvement in productivity if it is to compete effectively.

The prospects are awesome, the decisions difficult and the consequences critical. But decisions cannot be deferred indefinitely.

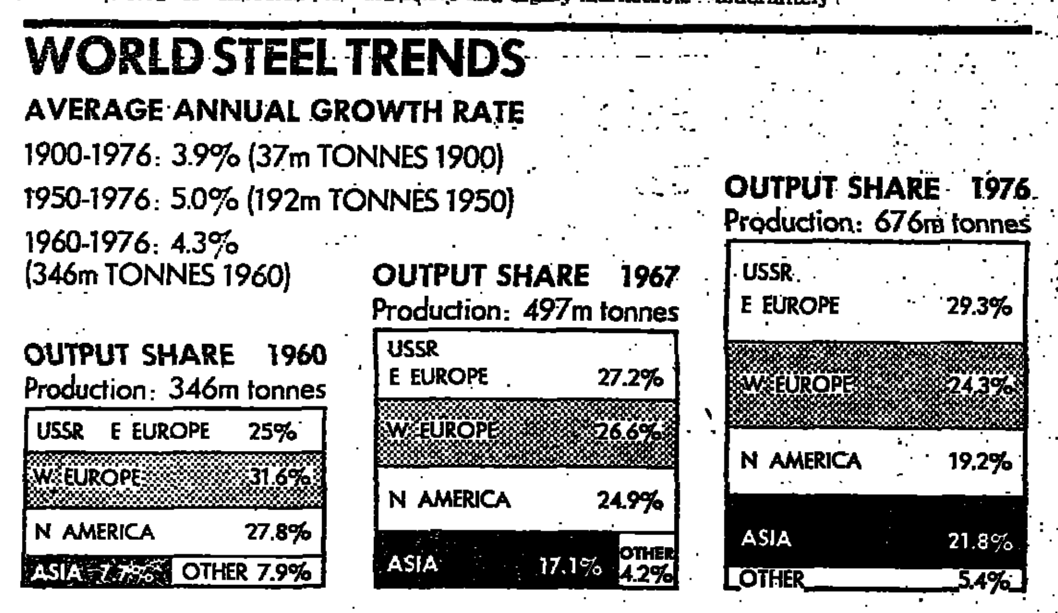
PRODUCTIVITY

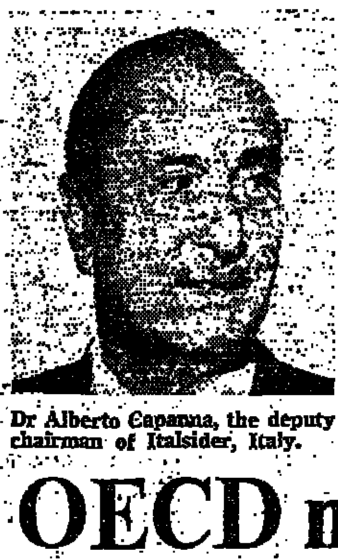
	(Liquid steel tonnes per man year)
Japan	372
United States	274
Netherlands	243
Italy	232
Germany	225
France	164
United Kingdom (BSC)	131

WORLD STEEL OUTPUT FIRST NINE MONTHS
(thousand tonnes)

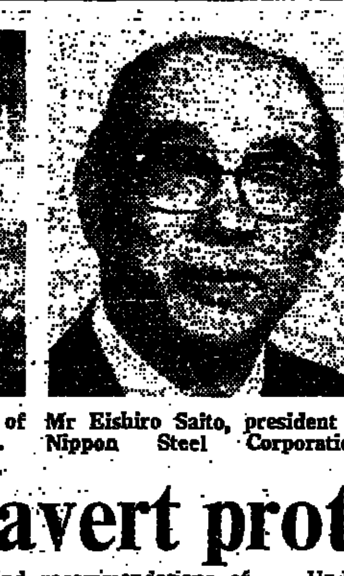
	1977	1976	% Change
EEC*	79,386	83,902	−5.4
UK	15,699	16,673	−5.8
USA	85,851	90,000	−4.6
Japan	77,420	78,761	−1.7
Others†	68,827	66,885	+2.9
TOTAL	327,183	336,221	−2.7

* Excluding UK
† Excluding centrally planned economies




Dr Alberto Capanna, the deputy chairman of Italsider, Italy.


Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of the British Steel Corporation.


Mr Eishiro Saito, president of Nippon Steel Corporation.


Mr R. P. Billimoria, chairman of the Steel Authority of India.

OECD moves to avert protectionism

Foreign Ministers from the European Community countries will be discussing the Commission's latest plans for dealing with the crisis in the European steel industry at meetings being held today and tomorrow.

The moves represent the third phase of the Commission's attempts to soften the impact of the crisis on the Community's steelmakers and to provide a basis for the longer term rationalization and reorganization of the industry.

Earlier this month the Carter Administration outlined its plans for dealing with the crisis being experienced by American steelmakers, a number of whom have already instituted proceedings against foreign steel exporters.

The Japanese industry, operating at about 60 per cent of capacity, is also being forced to recognize the realities of the present steel market.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has now—somewhat belatedly—been obliged to convene a special *ad hoc* working group to study the implications for world trade of the various packages being put together and to attempt to avoid protectionist tendencies which would lead to a damaging trade war in steel.

So far, all the OECD has been able to do is to reach understandings on several principles which will guide the work of the *ad hoc* committee in the months ahead and to identify common problems. In a communiqué issued after its meeting at the end of last month, the group stated categorically that no solution to the fundamental problems of the steel industry could be found in reliance on the introduction of quantitative restrictions of the volume of steel imports and exports between countries.

The OECD provides a suitable forum for discussion of the common problems of the industrial world's steel industry but, as with shipbuilding, its effectiveness is undermined by the non-membership of the developing countries. Only gentle persuasion, therefore, is available to the working group in its attempts to stabilize the total world market.

Special attention, the OECD has stated, should be given to the problem of pricing. In times of slack demand, prices of steel are likely to fall; indeed, there is often a tendency towards selling at a loss. But the OECD has said that no nation could be expected to absorb large quantities of imports at unjustifiably low prices to the detriment of domestic production and employment.

The organization has also established an information-gathering operation which, it is hoped, will provide an early warning mechanism to identify new problems and to monitor the effectiveness of measures introduced by member states.

The United States Government announced earlier this month a package of proposals for dealing with the American steel industry's problems. The key to the plan is the reduction of imports by the effective elimination of dumping. This would be done by means of a reference price system based on the cost of output abroad by the most efficient foreign producer (Japan) plus the cost of shipment to the United States. Any steel imports offered in the USA below this price will be subject to a charge to take the price to at least the reference price level.

The findings and recommendations of the special task force charged with tackling the steel industry's problems have been accepted in principle by Japanese and European steel producers but the package is intended to apply to all steel exporters to the US market.

US officials claim that the effect of the reference price system would be to reduce imports to about 14 per cent of total US market shipments; this is about the traditional level although, in the past 12 months, imports have risen sharply as foreign producers have sought to gain a larger share of the American market.

The trigger price mechanism would be adjusted quarterly and any imports below the reference price would be identified by a special task force of the United States Customs Service which would inform the Treasury; the latter could initiate a full-scale investigation within weeks and this could be completed within 90 days.

Details of the American measures have been studied carefully by the EEC Commission officials and will be taken into account in the proposals made by the Commission to the Foreign Ministers' meeting which begins today.

The Commission still favours the limitation of imports from third countries through the negotiation of voluntary export restraint agreements, but the possibility of Industry Commissioner Viscount Etienne Davignon proposing consideration of a reference price system similar to the American concept (advocated among others by the BSC chairman, Sir Charles Villiers) cannot be ruled out.

Nearly all EEC steelmakers are said to be applying the existing guidance prices (which are voluntary and not legally binding) with only the prices of wire rods, sections, bars and small beams falling below the guidance price level.

The Commission will maintain the existing mandatory price for reinforcing bars for the first quarter of next year and may extend mandatory prices to other products. Leaders of member states at their recent summit meeting are understood to have discussed and determined the scale of budgetary allocations for troubled industries like steel.

There could, therefore, be some disclosure of the amount of money likely to be made available for retirement and redundancy schemes as part of the Commission's efforts to restructure the European steel industry.

The Commission's hope is that, with these and associated measures, it may be possible to achieve a 15 per cent increase in guidance prices in the course of the year to be implemented in 5 per cent instalments.

Under articles 58 and 59 of the treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, the Commision has powers—if the industry is considered to be faced with a "manifest crisis"—to introduce mandatory as opposed to voluntary production quotas and other measures to ensure continued viability.

The first phase of the anti-crisis plan introduced in the spring of 1977, embracing guidance and the minimum price for rebars ran into some difficulties and there is some evidence that the situation was worsened by consumers embarking on a massive stockpiling exercise in advance of the guidance prices being set.

The discussions within the Community's member states continue with proposed measures surfacing in talks between members of Eurofer, the European steelmakers' federation. Inevitably there are differences and divisions. The small fiercely independent and entrepreneurial steelmakers of the Brescia region of Italy have only recently bent to Commission pressures to toe the Community line on pricing policies.

In West Germany, too, there are differences. The German industry at present has no plans to reduce capacity; its view is that its steel works are competitive, providing competition is fair. But investment plans are being trimmed and are being concentrated on the continuing policy of rationalization. The last major area in need of rationalization is in the Saar, where it appears that producers will be brought under the umbrella of the Luxembourg ARBED group.

No positive steps have been taken by the German Government to help the steel industry out of the crisis but one of the first recipients of any aid will be the companies in the Saar, where mergers could lead to the loss of 10,000 jobs.

Guarantees and other financial aid will probably be given to assist in the restructuring. Other producers are asking that the Government should relieve them of the obligation to buy German coking coal at prices above world market levels.

Mergers among the other major companies in the industry are being opposed by the companies themselves. But, faced with an inevitable loss of jobs if poor market conditions continue into the 1980s, trade union leaders have suggested that all steel workers over 55 should be pensioned off. So far, this idea has not been enthusiastically received.

German steelmakers regard Community action as the only effective means of dealing equitably with the difficulties and are critical of the virtually unlimited national government funds being given to the British and Italian industries and the huge loans made to French and Belgian companies.

THE TOP TEN STEEL COMPANIES 1976
(million tonnes)

1	Nippon Steel (Japan)	34.0
2	US Steel (USA)	25.7
3	British Steel (UK)	19.1
4	Bethlehem Steel (USA)	17.1
5	Nippon Kokan (Japan)	14.7
6	Finsider (Italy)	13.4
7	Sumitomo (Japan)	13.3
8	Kawasaki (Japan)	13.2
9	August Thyssen-Hütte (W Ger)	12.8
10	National Steel (USA)	9.8

THE TOP TEN STEEL COUNTRIES 1976
(million tonnes)

1	USSR	145.0
2	United States	116.3
3	Japan	107.4
4	West Germany	42.4
5	Italy	23.5
6	France	23.2
7	United Kingdom	22.5
8	China	21.0
9	Poland	15.9
10	Czechoslovakia	14.7

By Peter Hill and Maurice Corina in London; Peter Hazelhurst in Tokyo; Michael Hornsby in Brussels; Peter Norman in Bonn; Richard Wigg in New Delhi. Edited by Dennis Topping.

Sources for statistical material include the British Steel Corporation, the International Iron and Steel Institute, the United Nations and the United States Bureau of Metal Statistics.

Third World starts to expand own industries

A discernible trend towards the establishment of large-scale raw steelmaking operations is emerging in the countries of the Third World. The movement in this direction is inevitable, given the wish of developing nations to create a basic manufacturing infrastructure and for those with indigenous supplies of iron ore and coal to exploit such resources for the benefit of their people.

Latin America

Latin American capacity in the next decade is estimated to rise to about 55m tonnes annually with **BRAZIL** alone expected to have an installed crude steelmaking capacity of some 22m tonnes a year. Other countries in the area including **VENEZUELA, CHILE, PERU, ARGENTINA** and **MEXICO** will also contribute to this expansion.

Middle East

The countries of the Middle East which at present largely rely on imports of finished steel products from the industrialized world have plans for major expansion. The International Iron and Steel Institute estimates that installed steelmaking capacity will rise 10-fold to about 10m tonnes annually by the mid-1980s with the biggest share taken by **IRAN** (5.9m tonnes), followed by **EGYPT** (1.6m tonnes) and **IRAQ** (1.2m tonnes).

Far East

IISI has also forecast that in the Far East an estimated 44m tonnes of capacity will have been installed by the middle of the next decade.

In **SOUTH KOREA** (where strikes are proscribed and average monthly earnings are about $100) the indigenous steel industry is already undercutting Japanese steelmakers because of low labour costs. Total steelmaking capacity is at present 4.5m tonnes a year and production this year is estimated at 4.4m tonnes, rising to 4.98m tonnes next year.

The country's large integrated facility at Pohang is due to be expanded to 5.5m tonnes at a cost of $1,200m by the end of next year and to 8.5m tonnes, costing another $1,500m by 1980. Profits of the state-owned Pohang company last year amounted to $306m and the industry currently employs about 47,000 workers.

CHINA plans to lift its domestic steelmaking capacity from 25m tonnes a year to 100m tonnes by the year 2000 through the construction of large new plants. These will replace the existing small and uneconomic production units.

INDIA has already emerged as a leading Third World steelmaking nation; it is even providing steel consultancy services to other countries seeking to establish a domestic steel industry. By the end of this century it is possible that India could have had an installed crude steelmaking capacity of 75 million tonnes a year. By the end of March, 1978, the capacity of the country's six integrated steel plants should have reached 10,500,000 tonnes, while non-integrated plants will account for a further 1,200,000 to 1,400,000 tonnes.

Five of the large integrated plants are controlled by the Steel Authority of India; another is in private ownership.

Crude steel output amounted to 10 million tonnes and this year the industry will export about 2,500,000 tonnes.

ADDITIONS TO CAPACITY, WESTERN WORLD
(million tonnes)

	1974-7	Projected 1978-85
EEC	14.5	9.1
Other W Europe	9.2	4.9
N America	3.9	9.1
Latin America	13.3	17.4
Africa	3.8	1.6
Middle East	2.8	6.7
Far East	17.0	26.9
Oceania	—	1.8
TOTAL	64.5	77.5

NOTE: Total capacity in 1975 was 560m tonnes. On the projection, it would be in the region of 700m tonnes by 1985.

Why BSC must borrow to pay interest on loans

Britain's steel industry will enter the New Year with little prospect of relief from the difficulties of the past 12 months. Indeed, the industry's problems will almost certainly multiply. They are seen in their most acute form in the operations of the British Steel Corporation, which emerged 10 years ago from the grouping of a number of individual companies with separate identities and traditions.

The financial crisis besetting the state steel undertaking is the biggest industrial issue facing the Government. BSC is losing nearly £10m a week or, as one Conservative MP expressed it a few weeks ago, £1,000 per minute. Losses for the first half of the current financial year amounted to £201m and the outturn for the full year will be at least £500m.

This last figure will be almost double the previous record loss of £255m which the BSC produced in 1975-76 and the indications for the coming financial year are that substantial losses will be maintained.

As Sir Charles Villiers, the Corporation's chairman, frankly admitted in a speech two months ago to an audience (appropriately) of chartered accountants: "Any companies losing money at the rate we are would now be in receivership or liquidation."

At the end of March, 1977, the Corporation's long-term indebtedness amounted to £1,444,700 (including its subsidiaries) while overall borrowings were £2,285,300. It is now widely expected, both within the Corporation and in Whitehall, that the BSC's present borrowing limit of £4,000m will be reached and may even be exceeded late next year or early in 1979.

Such is the state of the Corporation's finances that it is in the ludicrous position of having to borrow from the Government to meet interest payment obligations on its previous borrowings.

This year's cash limit of £950m will not be exceeded. Treasury Ministers and the BSC itself have made that much clear. The fact that the Corporation has managed to remain within the limit has largely been due to the postponing of major investment projects which formed the basis of the 10-year development strategy approved in the early 1970s. This programme was originally estimated to cost £3,000m. But the final cost at current prices will be over £9,000m, because of inflation, Government intervention and other factors.

The 10-year strategy for this "commanding height" of the British economy has been shattered by the combination of the severe recession in world steel demand and the peculiar difficulties of the Corporation itself. The wisdom of the concept of concentrating iron and steelmaking at five large integrated coastal sites is now being questioned.

Leading article, page 13

Originally, the plan was to close several old and uneconomic production units scattered throughout the country as the five coastal sites were developed. But social considerations were given precedence. The entire strategy was reviewed and, two years ago, 17 plants earmarked for closure and called "Beswick plants" (after Lord Beswick, who carried out the government review of the closure), were reprieved because of the lack of alternative employment in the areas involved. This decision, approved by Mr Wedgwood Benn when he was Secretary of State for Industry, has reduced by £100m the savings BSC has been able to make.

Sir Monty Finniston, who preceded Sir Charles Villiers as BSC chairman, estimated that successive Government interventions on pricing policies had cost the corporation £750m between 1967-73. The revenue lost by the deliberate policy of holding prices down had to be recouped by borrowings, with a consequent addition to costs because of interest payments.

According to a recent study by the British Iron and Steel Consumers' Council, Government intervention is probably costing the Corporation between £150m-£200m a year.

Last year, every tonne of steel delivered from the Corporation's Scottish works involved a loss of £46; the Welsh division's loss per tonne was £12.80. The loss per tonne delivered from the modern Anchor complex at Scunthorpe, however, was only 70 pence.

A combination of high-cost plants, a continuing investment programme (some 48 per cent of total fixed assets of £2,180m is still under construction), overmanning, Government intervention and poor market conditions have contributed to the BSC's failure to improve productivity.

On its own admission, the Corporation's output a man has been between 25 per cent and 184 per cent below that of its major foreign competitors. The development strategy was designed to narrow the gap.

Efforts to secure the agreement of the steel industry trade unions to internationally competitive manning levels at new plants have met with only mixed success. Even now, the Corporation is without the consent of the men's leaders on the size of the workforce at new facilities on the integrated works at Redcar.

No one disputes the claim that the state organization is overmanned. Some estimates suggest that the present labour force of about 207,000 could be reduced by between 40,000 and 60,000 workers without affecting the industry's total capacity to produce steel.

Sir Charles Villiers's inability to carry through the long overdue reduction in the workforce stems from the politicians' reluctance to accept the impact that enforced redundancies would have on particular constituencies at a time of rising unemployment, on trade union reluctance to see labour forces reduced and on Government incomes policies. The latter have prevented the Corporation from completing a job restructuring programme designed to provide high financial rewards for a smaller workforce.

In the past few weeks there have been encouraging signs that the Corporation might at last be able to carry through its rationalization policies. At the Clyde Iron Works in Scotland, 800 workers—against their leaders' advice—opted for redundancy and compensation payments plus payment in lieu of notice after agreeing to the closure of the works. They preferred this to continuing in a state of uncertainty and insecurity. A similar argument affecting 1,500 workers at Hartlepool was reached last week.

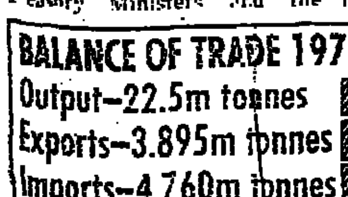
Ministers, the BSC and the trade unions are now involved in detailed discussions on how to deal with the crisis. A Government statement outlining any preliminary decisions is not expected until the end of January at the earliest. Agreement on the final shape of the package of proposals may not be reached until late March, when the Corporation's current financial year ends.

What concerns all three sides are the short and medium-term prospects for the steel industry internationally, and the scope for British steel exports.

The original development plan which predicated a liquid steelmaking capacity for the BSC of 43 million tonnes a year, 7 million tonnes of which was intended for export, has clearly been overtaken by events.

By the end of this year the Corporation will have a capacity of about 26 million tonnes following completion of new facilities at Teesside, Redcar, Llanwern and Ravenscraig. But sales opportunities for 1977 are no more than 20 million tonnes (production will be about 17 million tonnes) and the BSC needs to make and sell 24 million tonnes just to break even.

Mr Eric Varley has said that he wants to ensure that Britain has a substantial, viable and profitable steel industry in the 1980s. But action cannot be delayed indefinitely if his vision is to materialize. Investment, which all agree has to be maintained if the industry is to be brought up to international standards, has been pruned by £250m this year to remain within the cash limit. Other funds within the overall £950m are being used to finance day-to-day operations.



Recession poses major redundancy problems

Throughout the world steelmakers and governments are attempting to grapple with the crisis and to produce solutions which will meet not only the short-term difficulties but which will also help build a sound foundation for the industry's long term health and profitability.

United States

In the first 10 months of this year, American steelmakers produced 115.4m tonnes compared with 119.2m tonnes in the corresponding period of 1976. The installed capacity at the end of last year was 159m tonnes. Output in 1978, even on the most optimistic assessment, is not expected to rise above 125m tonnes.

American producers have complained bitterly at the rise in imports; several have instituted anti-dumping procedures. In the first nine months of this year, shipments of steel to the United States amounted to 13.5m tonnes, or 16.6 per cent of the total American steel market. In September, the percentage jumped to 21.5 per cent.

Because of the grave market conditions, pressure on margins and lack of orders, the industry's labour force has been trimmed substantially. In the mid-1960s the American steel industry employed about 500,000 workers. Following the closure of three major plants in the past few weeks, which made 20,000 jobless, the labour force is now less than 370,000.

In the third quarter of this year the 14 largest steel manufacturers recorded a combined loss of $350.8m compared with a combined profit in the corresponding period last year of $298.6m.

Japan

Japan, which because of its high productivity is the world's most efficient large-scale steel-producing nation, has not escaped unscathed from the crisis. Estimated production this year will be 102m tonnes felling to 100m tonnes in 1978. The country's installed capacity is put at 140m tonnes.

Between July, 1976, and November, 1977, the industry's total labour force has been reduced from 322,840 to 314,000. This has been achieved largely by retirement and natural wastage since Japan, unlike other steel-producing nations, does not lay off workers during a recession.

Between 1963 and 1976 operating profits of the six largest steel companies amounted to between 8.9 per cent and 14 per cent in terms of operating profit as a percentage of capital employed.

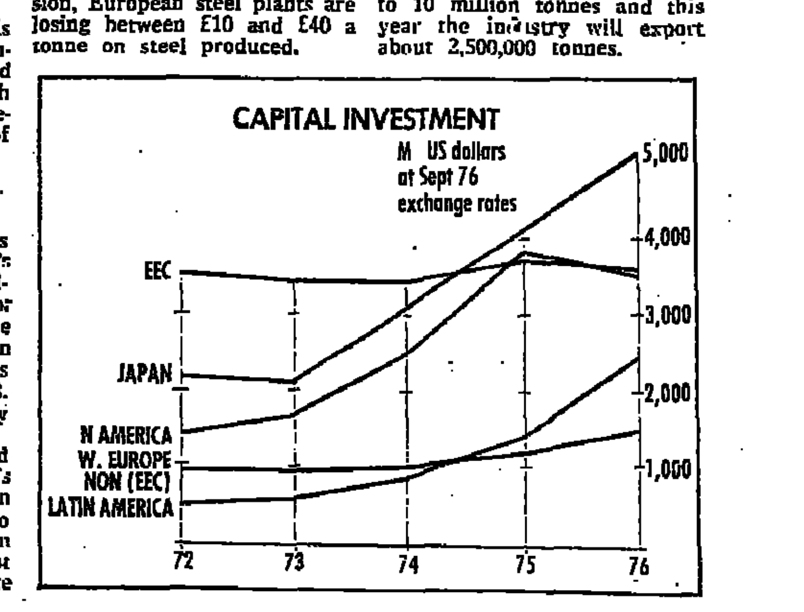
Cutbacks of more than 32 per cent on capital spending levels planned for this year have been implemented with the emphasis on replacement and rationalization, pollution control and energy-saving equipment.

Europe

This year the European Community's producers are expected to manufacture about 126m tons of steel (capacity utilization is about 60 per cent) falling to about 120m tonnes next year. Installed capacity is 198m tonnes.

European steel is shedding workers at a rate of between 5,000 and 6,000 each month. Since the end of December, 1974, and the end of September this year, the EEC's steel industry labour force has been cut from 795,000 to 733,000. Over the same period capacity has risen by about 23m tonnes and could reach 214m tonnes by 1980. By the end of this year the industry's labour force is expected to fall to about 715,000.

Combined losses by European steelmakers in 1977 are estimated at £2,500m. According to a survey by the Commission, European steel plants are losing between £10 and £40 a tonne on steel produced.



Cricket

Obduracy of Derbyshire pair puts clamp on Pakistan's progress

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Lahore, Dec 18

The small crowd behaved impeccably in the first Test match here today, the England batsmen rather less well until Derbyshire, in the persons of Miller and Taylor, came in and added an unbroken 83 for the seventh wicket. Thanks to them, England, in reply to Pakistan's first innings total of 407 for nine declared, were 245 for six at the close of play and assured of a draw.

When the day began there seemed no earthly reason why at least one of the England side should not make a 100. But from 85 for two at the start they declined to 162 for six against some admirable slow bowling. The orthodox left arm spin of Qasim was most successful. In the end, though, the slowness of the pitch, and its lack of bounce, and the obduracy of Miller and Taylor frustrated Pakistan.

Miller, when he was seven, survived a fairly sharp chance, via bat and pad, to Sadiq at forward short leg off Qadir's wrist spin. Miller went on to make 71 not out. Already in three and a half weeks in Pakistan he has taken more wickets with his off breaks than during three months in India last winter, where Greig consistently underbowled *him*, and today he played the bowling on its merits, not always in the best of light.

There was just a chance during the afternoon that England would be batting again before the day was out; that they might even have lost one or two second innings wickets. Miller's sense of timing and sound defensive method, as well as a little luck, prevented that, and it was good to *see Taylor, in his first Test* match as Knott's successor, playing such a useful part. This has been a good *match for several* players who might only have been watching it but for the Packer series.

The morning seemed to be played out in slow motion. In two hours before lunch Boycott made 19 runs off 21 eight-ball overs. When he reached his 50 after batting for 4hr 50min, he had, as it were, *20 minutes in hand of* Mudassar towards the slowest 100 in Test cricket. The air was *heavy, not with impending* disorder but the threat of thunder, the breeze having gone round from north to south. For longer than seemed sensible, especially with a new ball not far away, Wasim Bari kept going with his two opening bowlers, Sarfraz and Liaquat, for most of the morning. It is not as though his spin bowlers are negligible.

After three quarters of an hour Randall, driving at Liaquat (left arm, over the wicket, at medium pace) was caught in the gully. Three straight drives by Roope, his best and favourite stroke, promised something better than the way he was out, bowled, head in air, trying to hit Qasim hard and high to long on, 10 minutes before lunch. For the next hour and a half England were confronted by *Qasim and Qadir*, which increased the tempo and showed how, on these flat, bare, baked wickets, spin can so easily be a better and more interesting proposition than medium pace.

By the time Boycott was out he had got well and truly stuck. It was the sort of situation in which he needs someone like Knott to come in and help him get the *halter off his neck. Those Pakistanis* who have watched Boycott batting in this match will remember him as a famous name and a dogged accumulator, but not, if they know enough about it and on the evidence of this innings, as a great batsman. The responsibility, which by lunchtime Boycott bore, brought none of the *assertiveness out in him.*

When he was 59 he looked to be caught by wicketkeeper Bari, who threw *himself forward* to take a firm onside force that had bounced up off Sarfraz's left shin at short leg. This was off Qasim, who by now had five fielders round the bat. The likelihood of a long English score disappeared when, four runs later, Qasim bowled Boycott, who played back to a ball which pitched on the middle stump and hit the off. Boycott had batted for five hours and a half for his 63. Enough said.

England were 162 for six, still needing 46 to save the follow on, when Old drove Qasim to mid-on. *In eleven overs today Qasim had* taken the wickets of Roope, Boycott and Old for 19 runs. At the other end Qadir, with his leg breaks and googlies, was beating Miller with some regularity. Against Australia in Australia last winter Qasim played in all Pakistan's three *Test matches, taking* 11 wickets in the first two.

I doubt whether, in the 30 years of their existence, Pakistan have produced a better bowler of his type than Qasim. But at 178 for six, to England's relief I would imagine, Wasim Bari opted to take the new ball which had been due by then for 19 overs. Given the decision again he might choose differently. By tea Miller and Taylor had added 42, *on their way to pulling round* the day.

Geoffrey Miller . . . played the bowling on its merits.

Test scorecard

PAKISTAN: First Innings 407 for 9 dec (Mudassar 114, Haroon 122, Miandad 71).

ENGLAND: First Innings

G. Boycott b Qasim	63
*J. M. Brearley run out	23
B. C. Rose, l-b-w, b Sarfraz	1
D. W. Randall, c Wasim Raja b Liaquat	19
G. R. J. Roope, b Qasim	19
G. Miller, not out	71
C. M. Old, c Mudassar, b Qasim	2
†R. W. Taylor, not out	32
Extras (b 2, l-b 6, n-b 7)	15
Total (6 wkts)	245

G. Cope, J. K. Lever, R. G. D. Willis to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—53, 2—55, 3—96, 4—127, 5—148, 6—162.

BOWLING (to date): Sarfraz, 26—9—50—1; Liaquat, 23—10—37—1; Qadir 25—6—69—0; Qasim, 28—10—55—3; Wasim Raja, 7—1—19—0.

Garner rips heart out of Australia

Sydney, Dec 18.—Kerry Packer's second series ended here today when the largest crowd his world matches have attracted saw a West Indian XI beat an Australian XI by nine wickets. The win, with two of the five days to spare, gave the West Indians an unbeatable 2—0 lead in the three series and earned them $16,606.

The crowd of 9,500 were nearly 2,000 more than the attendance at Friday's opening day, which had been the largest crowd to watch any of the matches in the three-week-old Packer series. *The total* attendance during the three days was 23,600, nearly double the number of people who watched the opening match in Melbourne two weeks ago, which also ended in three days.

The Australian XI resumed this morning at 12 for no wicket after trailing the West Indians by 85 runs on the first innings, and another batting collapse by the home side made a West Indian victory a formality.

The Australian XI were all out for 182 at tea, leaving the West Indians to score only 98 runs to win the match. The West Indian opening batsmen, Gordon Greenidge, and Roy Fredericks *took the* score to 86 before Fredericks was out. Greenidge and Vivian Richards put on *the remaining* runs, with the West Indians's final score 101 for one.

The West Indians fast bowler, Joel Garner, ripped out the heart of the Australian second innings when he took four wickets for four runs in a devastating spell just before and after lunch, which set the Australians crashing from 104 for two to 112 for six.

Garner, who came into the side at the last minute in place of the spin bowler, David *Holford*, took four for 58 off 13 overs to go with the three wickets he took in the Australian first innings.

AUSTRALIAN XI: First innings 251

Simpson's masterly knock inspires Australians

Perth, Dec 18.—A masterly *innings of 176* by Bob Simpson steered Australia to a first innings total of 394 on the third day of the second Test against *India* at the Waca ground today—only eight runs behind India's formidable score of 402. And with 23 minutes remaining Jeff Thomson struck a vital blow for Australia by dismissing Chetan Chauhan for a breezy 32.

At *the close India were 67 for* one, giving them an overall lead of 75. Tomorrow is a rest day, *and the final two days will be* played on Tuesday and Wednesday. The pitch is still playing perfectly with hardly any signs of wear and this high scoring game looks destined to end in a draw.

Today was Simpson's day. The 41-year-old captain, back after a 10-year break from first class cricket, gave a marvellous display of concentration and immense skill to delight the crowd of 5,821. When he came in yesterday Aus*tralia had been in trouble at 65* for three.

Simpson found a series of partners, notably *Dyson, who helped* in a fourth wicket stand of 84 and Rixon in a fifth wicket stand of 101. He was eighth out with the total at 388 when he drove the off-spin bowler Venkataraghavan to mid-on. He had batted for 391 minutes and hit 17 boundaries with drives, cuts, sweeps and pulls. It was his ninth Test century and *his third in eight* Tests against India.

Rixon, dropped three times in the twenties by Chauhan at short leg, went on to his 50 today. Bedi took five for 89 in 31 overs. The *Indians made a bright start to* their second innings. Chauhan cracked seven fours before cutting Thomson to gully. Earlier, in Thomson's third over, Robin Bailache, the umpire, warned him for excessive use of bouncers.

INDIA: First Innings

S. Gavaskar, c Rixon, b Clark	4
C. Chauhan, c Gannon, b Simpson	88
M. Amarnath, c Gannon, b Thomson	90
G. Viswanath, b Thomson	38
D. Vengsarkar, c Rixon, b Clark	49
B. Patel, c Rixon, b Thomson	3
S. Kirmani, c Rixon, b Thomson	38
S. Venkataraghavan, c Simpson, b Gannon	37
S. Madan Lal, b Gannon	43
*B. Bedi, b Gannon	3
B. Chandrasekhar not out	0
Extras (B 1, nb 8)	9
Total	402

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—14, 2—163, 3—224, 4—229, 5—235, 6—311, 7—319, 8—385, 9—391, 10—402.

BOWLING: Thomson, 24—1—101—4; Clark, 17—0—95—2; Gannon, 16.6—1—84—3; Mann, 11—0—63—0; Simpson, 11—0—50—1.

Second Innings

S. Gavaskar, not out	20
C. Chauhan, c Ogilvie, b Thomson	32
M. Amarnath, not out	10
Extras (nb 5)	5
Total (1 wkt)	67

FALL OF WICKET: 1—47.

BOWLING (to date): Thomson, 5—1—15—1; Gannon, 5—0—27—0; Clark, 3—0—15—0; Mann, 1—0—5—0.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

J. Dyson, c Patel, b Bedi	53
C. Serjeant, c Kirmani, b Madan Lal	13
D. Ogilvie, b Bedi	27
P. Toohey, st Kirmani, b Bedi	0
*R. Simpson, c Vengsarkar, b Venkataraghavan	176
†S. Rixon, c Kirmani, b Amarnath	50
K. Hughes, c Patel, b Bedi	28
A. Mann, c Vengsarkar, b Bedi	7
W. Clark, c Patel, b Chandrasekhar	15
J. Thomson, c Amarnath, b Venkataraghavan	0
S. Gannon, not out	0
Extras (l-b 25)	25
Total	394

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—19, 2—61, 3—65, 4—149, 5—250, 6—331, 7—341, 8—388, 9—388, 10—394.

BOWLING: Madan Lal 15—1—54—1; Amarnath, 16—2—57—1; Chandrasekhar, 33.6—6—114—1; Bedi, 31—6—89—5; S. Venkataraghavan, 23—4—55—2.—Reuter.

World XI top of table after collapse of opposition

Canberra, Dec 18.—The World XI moved to the top of the Country Cup competition table with an easy 212 run victory over an Australia XI at Manuka Oval today. The Australian XI needed 360 to win but collapsed and were all out for 147. The Australians started disastrously, losing the wicket of Trevor Chappell for no score and his partner, Ian Davis for four and from then on it was *only a matter of how long it would* take for the world team to win.

There were some bright moments when Walters, who scored 23, and the top scorer, Langer, were together. Langer scored 50 in 128 minutes and tried to hold the Australians together.

After lunch, the wickets started to tumble and the Australian captain, Robinson, was run out in *ridiculous circumstances*. Robinson, the last of the recognized batsmen, took off for a cheeky single after *his partner* O'Keeffe defensively prodded a ball from Mushtaq Mohammad about five metres on the leg side. O'Keeffe did not call and Zaheer Abbas had no trouble in returning the ball to Mushtaq with Robinson at least 15 metres out of his ground.

From then on, the Australian *tail offered* little resistance and it was then only an academic exercise as to how long the rest of the Australian batsmen would last.

WORLD XI: First Innings, 203 for 6 (D. Amiss 51; A. Mallet 6 for 53).

Second Innings

Majid Khan, c Chappell, b Walters	152
D. Amiss, c Prior, b Mallett	52
Zaheer Abbas, c Robinson, b Mallett	35
R. Woolmer, c Robinson, b O'Keefe	17
M. Procter, c Robinson, b Malone	5
Mushtaq Mohammad not out	61
Imran Khan, b Walters	1
A. Knott, b Gilmour	4
E. Barlow, b Gilmour	0
J. Snow, c Chappell, b Walters	7
D. Underwood not out	1
Extras (b 9, l-b 7, n-b 3)	19
Total (9 wkts, inns closed)	357

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—46, 2—178, 3—214, 4—224, 5—323, 6—327, 7—332, 8—333, 9—351.

BOWLING: Prior, 9—2—31—0; Malone 13—1—78—1; O'Keeffe, 15—5—52—1; Gilmour, 9—0—38—2; Mallett, 15—1—67—2; Chappell, 6—0—37—0; Walters, 8—0—16—3.

AUSTRALIAN XI: First Innings, 201 for 9 (D. Walters 31, E. Barlow 3 for 27).

Second Innings

I. Davis, c Knott, b Procter	4
T. Chappell, c Knott, b Imran	0
R. Edwards, b Procter	21
R. Langer, c Amiss b Underwood	50
D. Walters c Mushtaq, b Barlow	23
G. Gilmour, c and b Underwood	4
R. Robinson run out	17
K. O'Keefe, c Woolmer, b Underwood	12
M. Malone not out	7
A. Mallet c Majid, b Mushtaq	5
W. Prior, c Knott b Mushtaq	0
Extras (l-b 1, n-b 1)	2
Total	147

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—1, 2—7, 3—60, 4—89, 5—104, 6—109, 7—131, 8—141, 9—147.

BOWLING: Imran, 7—0—20—1; Procter, 7—0—36—2; Snow, 5—0—20—0; Barlow, 5—0—21—1; Underwood, 8—0—35—3; Mushtaq, 6—1—23—2.—Reuter.

Schoolboys match

POONA, INDIA: England schoolboys 180. West Zone 175.

Football

Early hazard for leading clubs in FA Cup

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

First Division clubs will find *that this season's FA Cup has an* awkwardly-placed early hazard. In the third round on January 7 eight of them will meet each other and six, possibly seven, more are drawn away, but Nottingham Forest, basking in praise after thrashing Manchester United at the weekend, will continue to enjoy peace of mind having been favoured with a tie at home, where they are unbeaten, against Swindon Town, who have not won an away league match this season.

Fortune does indeed smile on the adventurous, although luck has not played a particularly *crucial* part in Forest's remarkable journey out of the second division to a position of defiance at the top of the first. In the early months of the season they were expected to fall after the momentum of a few good results had disappeared.

After four months "now you're going to believe us"—is sung with special significance at the City Ground and Manchester United's manager, David Sexton, believes them after seeing his team beaten by 4—0 at Old Trafford. "Forest *gave us a lesson*" he admitted. "They could have had six or seven". Brian Clough recalled *that on his last visit with Derby* County his team also won but two days later he was dismissed.

The song from the terraces will easily be adapted to suggest that people may also like to believe *that Forest will win the Cup, and* one can hardly imagine Mr Clough suggesting one thing at a time *is enough. Swindon* are most unlikely to be offered generosity and the general hunch is that Forest *will reach the semi-final round* but no further.

Non-league football will be liberally represented in the third round and already one of their number, either Blyth Spartans or Enfield, must go through to the fourth round as they are drawn together. Glory takes second place to funds...these days and the Enfield manager, Ted Hardy, commented: "Blyth must be as disappointed as us." The outsiders with the most attractive matches are Wigan, Tilbury and Wealdstone.

Wigan are still hoping that *regular appearances* at this stage of the cup will eventually bring them league status and a tie at Birmingham City will help to finance their campaign. Tilbury, whose manager *says he "threw the team together"* at the start of the season, play at Stoke City where some supporters would say that a team was thrown away. AP Leamington have to beat Southend in a replay before going to Derby County. Tommy Docherty asked: "Are they Italian?" Wealdstone have to travel to play Queen's Park Rangers.

Four third-round clubs rehearsed on Saturday in the league. Leeds United, who moved into sixth place and seem about to retrieve the style of their past, beat *Manchester City* 2—0. City are now hoping that a run in the cup will compensate for disappointment *in the* league after starting among the favourites. Bristol Rovers beat Sunderland *3—2 but in the cup have to go to* Roker Park where it will be much less comfortable.

After their defeat by Forest, Manchester United may not even feel keen about visiting Carlisle United, and Liverpool's winning touch has returned without restoring real confidence in their ability to make up lost ground in the first division or overcome Chelsea in the Cup, even though they have beaten them twice this season.

Last season's long struggle between Everton and Aston Villa in the Football League Cup final is revived. This time in the FA Cup they start at Goodison Park and hope to finish by the fourth round on January 28. Villa won after three matches last season but now, without Cropley, may not be strong enough to interrupt Everton's powerful sequence of success.

Third round draw

Birmingham C v Wigan Athletic
Blackburn R v Shrewsbury T or Stockport C
Blyth Spartans v Enfield T
Brighton v Crewe A or Scarborough
Bristol City v Wrexham
Burnley v Plymouth
Cardiff C v Ipswich T
Carlisle U v Manchester United
Charlton A v Notts County
Chelsea v Liverpool
Derby v Southend U or AP Leamington
Everton v Aston Villa
Exeter C v Wolverhampton W
Gillingham or Peterborough U v Newcastle U
Grimsby T v Southampton
Hartlepool v Crystal Palace
Hull C v Leicester City
Leeds U v Manchester City
Luton T v Oldham A
Mansfield T v Plymouth A
Middlesbrough v Coventry C
Nottingham Forest v Swindon T
Orient v Norwich C
QPR v Wealdstone
Rotherham U v Millwall
Sheffield United v Arsenal
Stoke v Tilbury
Sunderland v Bristol Rovers
Tottenham Hotspur v Bolton W
Walsall or Port Vale v Portsmouth or Swansea C
West Bromwich Albion v Blackpool
West Ham U v Watford

Bristol City no longer looking out of place

By Norman Fox

Bristol City, unlike Nottingham Forest, showed decent respect for the first division when they *arrived last season. Only in the* last few weeks have they spoken up, taking nine points from six games until Saturday, when they should have drawn with Derby County at the Baseball Ground, but lost 1—0.

Derby themselves are enjoying a revival now that they have overcome the immediate shock of being taken over by Tommy Docherty, who has thinned out the staff but not yet achieved *the right balance. They* have won nine points in their last five matches, although on Saturday's evidence it was hard to see how they managed that because they so rarely got more than one player into the Bristol City penalty area at a time. They packed the midfield area but rarely dominated it, and if it *had not been for McFarland's* composure against the much revitalized Royle, and Todd's goal that was the direct result of his being given greater freedom, they might have settled for a point.

After avoiding relegation late last season, Bristol City have become a much more competent team. They no longer look out of place. Obviously, confidence has grown with time, but, as *their manager, Alan Dicks, said,* their original failing was not that they were particularly lacking in skilful players. "We just didn't have the know how", he said. Hunter has a lot of "know how", and while a wry grin revealed that Mr Dicks expected inevitable sarcastic comments, he made out a *strong* case for *Hunter's "skill"*.

Hunter's skill: Some may claim that to be a conflict in itself, but *the point was made by the man* himself. If Derby rarely penetrated the Bristol penalty area, it was primarily because of *him*. He started in customary style by cracking down on the unprepared Derby striker, Hughes, who was no match, pound for pound. That cast him as an ogre with the crowd and gave the match a pantomime flavour. In fact, he went on to guide and whip Bristol into an efficient unit. With Collier also *strong in* the middle the defence quickly dealt with Derby's modest threats, and even George, who seemingly *had played superbly* until Saturday, was reduced to inconsequential flickering.

Possibly, the absence of Rioch accentuated Derby's inability to take a positive grip. Masson made no impact and most of the inven*tive football came from Daly,* whose light step and variety of ideas made it seem strange that not long ago he seemed to have nothing to offer Mr Docherty. Rightly, though, the manager was bubbling with praise for McFarland, and Todd when, later, he burst upon the press to bring his own form of variety and some advice for England, who, he said, if they did not have the gumption to choose Brian Clough as *manager, at least should have* McFarland and Todd in the team.

If Todd's outlook can continue to be expanded by Mr Docherty, he could indeed be reconsidered for England. His appearance on the score sheet was certainly an innovation but, according to Mr Docherty, he had been encouraged to go forward, and this he did with an appetite that some of us had not seen in his many seasons *as a fine but not over-ambitious* defender.

Twenty minutes had passed. Hunter had claimed some territory and Royle was beginning to look sleeker and hungrier for goals than in his last months at Manchester City. Suddenly, Todd moved forward toward the halfway line, passing through to Hughes, who played a delightful pass out to Curran on the right wing. Todd of the past would have considered *his job finished, but* here he just kept running, and when Curran's centre was missed by George he *was positioned* to push the ball over the line.

Bristol City persevered without a hint of luck to assist them. Royle was especially unfortunate. He became a target for most of the attacks and his control was admirable. His shots were rarely more than a few inches off target, and on one occasion he coolly *chipped one over Middleton's head* into the net, but the referee chose to award Bristol City a free kick because Todd had been leaning too heavily on Royle. Even so, Bristol City did enough to make it known that they could be considered full members of the first division.

DERBY COUNTY: J. Middleton; D. Langan, D. Nish (sub, S. Powell), G. Daly, R. McFarland, C. Todd, T. Curran, W. Hughes, D. Masson, C. George, G. Ryan.

BRISTOL CITY: J. Shaw; G. Sweeney, G. Merrick, G. Gow, G. Collier, N. Hunter, T. Tainton, T. Ritchie, J. Royle, D. Gillies, C. Whitehead.

Referee: M. Baker (Wolverhampton).

Well timed retort by Forest

By Tom German

Those who have doubts should be prepared to shed them now; Nottingham Forest are equipped to win the championship and assuredly will if the exciting style which demolished and demoralized Manchester United sets their standard for the second half of the season. *Four goals without reply* at Old Trafford—and it should have been seven—is a scoreline *which applies its own yardstick.*

Forest chose well both the moment and the setting to retort, emphatically, to the cautious, sometimes grudging, judgments widely passed on them, for Manchester, with a full side at last restored, had declared their eagerness to revive their own quest for honours and, moreover, Old Trafford's traditions make it a better location than most at which to evaluate enterprising, skilful football. *There was nothing here re*motely "ordinary" or "pedestrian" about Forest; it was hard to identify a semblance of frailty as they ripped through Manchester's defence with the ease of a circus dog leaping through a paper hoop.

They switched the ball around with speed and dexterity, channelling men forward to join the attack at exhilarating pace. Robertson and O'Neill gave Manchester a roasting *along the flanks, while* Woodcock and Withe were so shrewdly mobile they fooled Manchester's central defenders in so many directions that, by the end, they were as bemused as the man in the middle in some particularly impish game of blind man's buff.

The middle of the field was cleverly cultivated, particularly by Gemmill. *Short*, constantly pumping legs took him into almost every challenge and certainly *every attack; it would be no sur*prise to learn that he ran all the way home. At the back, Burns *positioned himself* marvellously well; only once was he careless.

It is a measure of how complete and unrelenting was Nottingham's hold on the match that Shilton had to make only one save worthy of the name; how apparent, though, is the sense of security his mere presence has built into Forest's defence. They were seriously taxed for only the opening quarter of an *hour* in which time both Pearson and McIlroy each failed to make the best of a chance provided by the same *centre from Hill. And thereafter,* Manchester sagged, Pearson limped off, the midfield men found themselves chasing shadows, and there was little from the front line other than a couple of efforts by Hill, and a header with which Jimmy Greenhoff should have done better. If there was a crumb of comfort for United on a depressing day, it was in the skill and determination of young Grimes; here in the not *too distant future is a player of* accomplishment.

There was rare accomplishment *too about three of Nottingham's* four goals, though the first still owed much to Woodcock's nimble persistence as Manchester hesitated about clearing a high ball. Woodcock pursued it, hit a post from the sharpest of angles, and saw the ball glance out and in again off Brian Greenhoff's legs. By half-time, Woodcock had *scored again with important help* from Robertson and Withe. The last two goals sprang from marvellous running and timing by Gemmill, hurtling from his own half, with the ball perfectly controlled to supply first Robertson, then Woodcock. There could, and should, have been more. Anderson, O'Neill, and Robertson, all *clean away with Manchester's* defence in tatters spurned fine scoring chances; that they were fashioned so readily reflects the rapier quality of an impressive performance by Nottingham.

MANCHESTER UNITED: P. Roche; J. Nicholl, S. Houston; S. McIlroy, B. Greenhoff, M. Buchan; S. Coppell, J. Greenhoff, S. Pearson (Sub A. Grimes); L. Macari, G. Hill.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: P. Shilton; V. Anderson, C. Barrett; J. McGovern, D. Needham, K. Burns; M. O'Neill, A. Gemmill, P. Withe, A. Woodcock, J. Robertson.

Referee: T. L. Morris (Leeds).

Final whistle comes to Everton's rescue

By Tom Freeman

Birmingham City came as near as any team to spoiling Everton's unbeaten sequence at St Andrews on *Saturday, when the game* ended in a 0—0 draw. Everton have now gone 22 games without *defeat, but they were praying for* the final whistle long before the end on Saturday.

The game started, as everybody expected, with Everton, brimful of confidence, displaying all the *skill and adventurous play* which have earned them so many points this season, while Birmingham, with three successive defeats behind them, understandably showed apprehension. However, the pattern quickly began to change and it became evident that Birmingham were not going to succumb easily.

Francis proved that he was the most resourceful player on the field, frequently leaving the Everton defence in a muddle, and cleverly exploiting his No 9 Bertschin, an enterprising and enthusiastic forward. There was also Hibbitt, who was twice unlucky to see his shots deflected.

Everton's main threat came from Latchford, the first division's top scorer, who got in a couple of headers despite the close watch *kept* on him, and Thomas, who was dangerous enough with his centres but, as so *often in the past, badly off tar*get with his shooting.

"The real transformation came with half an hour left and the game in danger of petering out. Birmingham suddenly found the form that has deserted them in the past three weeks. Francis, who had been quiet after *an impressive* opening period, began to find some open spaces once more and *considerable pressure* was built up around Everton's goal.

It is true that both sides had suffered some narrow escapes before this final half hour. Dobson, for example, saw a wonderful header stopped on the line. But there had been nothing like this sustained pressure by Birmingham, the climax of which was a fierce drive from Calderwood that smacked against the bar with Wood helpless.

Although it will go down in the record book as a dropped home point and their fourth match in *a row* without a goal, Birmingham should derive great consolation from their performance, which showed that there is nothing basically wrong with the team. Everton looked less and less impressive as the game wore on, a fact which should cause some concern to their manager, Gordon Lee, although he is on the crest *of a wave at the moment.*

BIRMINGHAM CITY: J. Montgomery; J. Calderwood, G. Pendrey, A. Towers, P. Howard, A. Want, M. Page, T. Francis, K. Bertschin, T. Hibbitt, G. Emmanuel.

EVERTON: G. Wood; D. Jones, M. Pejic, M. Lyons, M. Higgins, M. Buckley, A. King, M. Dobson, R. Latchford, J. Pearson, D. Thomas.

Referee: J. Bent (Hemel Hempstead).

Arsenal dream backed by substantial confidence

By Clive White

In a poor man's season such as this one, it is, perhaps, not foolish idly to dream of champion*ships. Indeed, after five successive* away wins it seems the natural thing to do. The holiday period should reveal to Arsenal just how substantial that dream is.

The most impressive of their *play at Highfield Road on Satur*day was not just the enterprise as they took the game to Coventry City but the confidence and ease with which they contained the first division's most enlightened attack. The thrusts of Wallace and Ferguson were blunted by the unlikely combination of O'Leary and Young, two orthodox centre *halves. The result was that* Arsenal's 2—1 success was achieved with far greater authority than that showed by the League leaders, Nottingham Forest, over Coventry the previous week.

Without *protection from the* giant Holton, because of leg strain, Coventry's defence, what there was of it, looked vulnerable to almost anything Arsenal might try. Holton's deputy, Roberts, and Coop never seemed to know whom to mark and where to find them. Arsenal would turn the Coventry defence with the overlapping full back *or simply outpace them* through the centre with solid front running.

Coventry's advanced positions went too far when Blyth the goal*keeper, had to fill in at full back.*

Arsenal's first goal after 34 minutes arrived as if by appointment. Brady, the inventor of all things bright and beautiful, sent Nelson scampering into an overlap position and the full backs' quickly-centred ball was tucked cosily into the net by Stapleton's head.

Before Coventry had had time to atone in the second half Arsenal moved farther into the distance from a Rix corner, which Stapleton redirected with his prominent forehead. Sixty seconds later he was actually *scoring a third with* his foot, but Young had gone and spoilt it all by fouling someone.

The arrival of Graydon after *71* minutes as substitute for the lively Nardiello was the signal for *increased vocal response* from Coventry. Within 11 minutes this crafty winger had tricked Rix and Nelson into giving away a penalty. Coop scored and now through sheer weight of numbers, rather than intelligently applied pressure, Coventry were back doing what they usually do best. Long may it continue.

COVENTRY CITY: J. Blyth; G. Oakey, R. McDonald, T. Yorath, B. Roberts, M. Coop, D. Nardiello (sub, R. Graydon), I. Wallace, M. Ferguson, B. Powell, T. Hutchison.

ARSENAL: P. Jennings; P. Rice, S. Nelson, D. Price, D. O'Leary, W. Young, L. Brady, A. Sunderland, M. Macdonald, F. Stapleton, G. Rix.

Referee: D. Biddle (Bristol).

Gaiety and a pillow-case full of near misses

By Geoffrey Green

There was a festive air about White Hart Lane on Saturday as Tottenham Hotspur and Crystal Palace shared four goals, all of them scored before half-time and Palace bravely came twice from behind to share the points, somewhat fortuitously.

The weekend before Christmas *usually leaves football terraces* thin on the surface as father deals with the last of the family shopping. But now White Hart was a crowded Lane, stuffed with a 33,000 assembly all in a happy mood. It really was the spirit of Christmas fostered, I should think, by the gaiety of the football itself. Both sides set out to enjoy themselves with an end product that brought goals, flowing action, and a pillow-case full of near misses.

The score could have been doubled in Tottenham's favour. *Apart from hitting the Palace* woodwork twice, they called the tune most of the time, and always *seemed on the brink of victory.* Finally, it eluded them, and for the third time in succession, they were forced to drop a point at home, which may prove costly as the position tightens at the top of the second division.

However, as Keith Burkinshaw, the Spurs manager, said afterwards: "I was disappointed with *the result, but not with the way* we played." Indeed, Tottenham, these days, have regained some of their old *panache and style*, building their closely woven moves from the back with speed and vision, an interesting contrast on this occasion to some of the long-range counterattacks from Palace. Although denied their victory *there* came good news for Tottenham later that evening, when they discovered that they had been *drawn at home against their rivals* Bolton Wanderers in the third round of the FA Cup. That should be a battle to keep one sector of north London on its toes.

All the narrow escapes have now come and gone as part of a creative match. But drives by McAllister and Pratt against the Palace post and crossbar and another shot by McAllister cleared off the line by Hinshelwood need mentioning and so does a flick home by *Swindlehurst* to Harkouk's lob for Palace that was disallowed by a linesman for offside. *And to round it off, there* was Harkouk almost snatching victory for the visitors as he swept an exquisite long pass by Silkman just wide of Daines's far post.

Hoddle produced an alpha-plus performance for Tottenham in the first half but could not quite maintain his lofty standard. However, he is surely an England man for the future. *Taylor*, too, is at last producing his potential on the wing. For Palace, Sansom, *Hinshelwood* and Cannon absorbed the Tottenham barrage cleverly while Swindlehurst in par*ticular* and Harkouk *had their* dangerous moments up front.

The goals began to flow from *the start*. The first went to Hoddle in only three minutes as he shimmered unseen into the penalty area to volley a header by Lee. Next, before the quarter hour, it was 1—1 through Swindlehurst at the end of a swift counter. Midway *through* the *half, Spurs went* ahead again as Hoddle rose like a graceful swan to nod in a free kick *by Taylor. Yet again Palace* drew level in injury time as Swindlehurst, like Hoddle, helped himself to another goal as he glanced Holder's free kick off his eyebrows beyond Daines.

Though Spurs did most of the work, there it stayed with the only blight coming on the hour when the 18-year-old Nicholas, the *promising Palace midfield boy*, was carried off on a stretcher.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: B. Daines; T. Naylor, D. McAllister, G. Hoddle, K. Osgood, S. Perryman, J. Pratt, N. McNab, J. Duncan, C. Lee, P. Taylor.

CRYSTAL PALACE: A. Burns; P. Hinshelwood, K. Sansom, P. Holder, J. Cannon, P. Nicholas (sub, G. Murphy), N. Chatterton, T. Fenwick, D. Swindlehurst, R. Harkouk, B. Silkman.

Referee: M. Sinclair (Guildford).

Leading goalscorers

FIRST DIVISION: R. Latchford (Everton) 18; I. Wallace (Coventry C) 14; A. Gray (Aston Villa) 13; R. Hankin (Leeds U) 13; T. Whymark (Ipswich T) 12; P. Withe (Nottingham Forest) 12; M. Ferguson (Coventry C) 11; D. Tueart (Manchester City) 11.

SECOND DIVISION: M. Flanagan (Charlton A) 17; R. Hatton (Blackpool) ...

Today's football

FA CUP: Second round replays: Stockport County v Shrewsbury Town, Port Vale v Walsall, Southend v AP Leamington.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final round: Forfar v Rangers.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE CUP: Third round replay: Hillingdon v Wealdstone.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Goole v Frickley.

Weekend results and tables

First division

Second division

FA Cup, second round

Scottish premier division

European results

Fourth division

Scottish first division

Scottish second division

Scottish Cup

هكذا من الاصل

SPORT

Rugby Union

South African tour of British Isles put off indefinitely

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

The Springbok's rugby tour of Great Britain and Ireland, arranged for the 1978-79 season here, will not take place. According to an official statement in London from the committee of the four home unions, it has been postponed indefinitely at the request of the Springboks.

The decision was taken at a meeting in London attended by Dr Danie Craven, president, and Professor Fritz Eloff, vice-president of the South African Rugby Board. It would be surprising if the representatives of the four home unions did not make it plain that, however much they wished otherwise, they could not contemplate the risks involved. Memories of what happened on the last Springbok tour here, in 1969-70 remain starkly fresh in the mind. Some of the recent events in South Africa—as well as the hard line reemphasized by that country's Prime Minister—make it tolerably certain that another Springbok tour of these islands would be subject to the same sort of disruption. Additionally, the home unions, who treasure their independence and have been always sensitive to outside pressures in the past, may now have thought it politic to yield to Government advice.

If there was tacit agreement at yesterday's meeting to sugar a bitter pill for South African rugby by leaving the decision to their Board, no one knowing Dr Craven in particular will cavil at the arrangement. It is no exaggeration to say that for many years he has dedicated himself to keeping his country in the international rugby fold. Now, so far as a tour here is concerned, the door is closed, and the statement confirms that his Board have accepted a harsh reality. But it is not bolted for good and all.

Although no date has been considered for the rearrangement of the tour, the committee in their sympathetic statement "welcome the resolve of the colleagues in South Africa to continue their efforts and thus make it possible for resumption of international fixtures at an early date". This wording seems to imply that, as things stand at present, the home unions could not contemplate another visit by a British team to South Africa.

In regretting the circumstances which have led to the decision to postpone the tour, the home unions acknowledge in their statement "the major steps that have already been taken by the rugby authorities in South Africa to remove any form of racial discrimination from the game". They stress that Springbok teams are now selected on merit by a multi-racial selection committee after multi-racial trials, and that the game is now open to sportsmen of any colour to take part at all levels.

"The committee believes that the South African rugby authorities have already done more in that direction than the committee had at one time believed possible; and think it unfortunate that the progress already achieved is not more widely understood. Representatives of the South African Rugby Board stated that they would use the interval arising from the postponement of the tour to consolidate the very considerable advances made, and thus avoid the danger of halting progress towards the establishment of good relationships and understanding for their country."

Stanley Couchman, senior vice-president of the Rugby Union, said: "I am obviously disappointed that the tour will not be taking place. But it must be for the best, since the circumstances would have been far from ideal.

"I am sure the players, nor the spectators, could have enjoyed the matches since we all know what conditions they would have been played under.

"I do not know of any move yet to replace the South Africans. That is up to the four home unions tours committee. But at least England have a visit from Argentina planned for the autumn."

Leading light of London: Claxton breaks loose at a scrum.

Pivotal problems still for England selectors

By Peter West

At Twickenham on Saturday the North, as expected, became England's new divisional champions when beating Midlands 22—7, and a much reconstructed London side, in a result that was not widely expected, deservedly acquired third place with victory over the South and South West by 22—15. Yet, at the end of it all, there were no clear-cut answers as to how the main problem area of the "pivot five"—loose forwards and half-backs—may eventually be resolved.

The teams for the final trial, England v The Rest, on January 7, will be revealed this morning, and there is not much doubt that the selectors will give most of last season's national team a chance to defend their positions in the senior side.

Assuming the proven fitness of all concerned, it takes no great perception to suggest that the front five—Cowling, Wheeler, Cotton, Beaumont and Nigel Horton—will get a solid vote, together with Hignell (full back), Squires (right wing), Kent (centre), Young (scrum half), Dixon (flanker forward or No 8), and Rafter (flanker). To that number will be added Barrie Corless (centre) and Cooper (stand-off half) if the selectors are charitable enough to overlook, in the case of one, a missed tackle that let Maxwell through for a rousing try on Saturday and, in the other, a decidedly poor second half wherein not all of his troubles were caused by Neary breathing down his neck, or by the failure of Peck, a promising young partner, to reduce the pressure by varying the scope of his game.

It seems inconceivable that the selectors can leave out Neary this time and, of the uncapped players, Carleton, with another strong, secure effort, should have assured himself of further recognition on the left wing.

Old's late withdrawal with a rib injury, which let in John Horton for a sparkling first-half performance and one of his good games overall, merely complicated thorny issues for the selectors. However, if they took Saturday's evidence at face value, Horton would now be preferred to Cooper, and the London half-backs, Ball and Conner, would certainly be hopeful of places in the trial.

Another shrewd performance by Young underlined his claim to tenancy of the scrum-half position, and a heartening renaissance by the London pack provided the controlled platform for the Wasps partnership to make their point. Conner, whose goal-kicking is a bonus, spun out a swift, long and mostly accurate service. Even when it was not precisely on target, Ball's adhesive handling never failed him, and the stand-off, kicking accurately, put his lively stamp on affairs with a well-judged, all-round game. At scrum half for the opposition, Lewis made too many mistakes for comfort and may, for the present at least, have come to the end of his English road.

In the other match an increasingly indecisive Cooper sometimes kicked away a usable ball, and none too happily at that. This was a pity because the Midlands had revealed some nice touches in midfield, Dodge again serving reminder of his ability as an unobtrusively effective distributor (though making one gaffe as tactical kicker).

Old has gone well for Yorkshire and then, twice, with Young in regional-divisional games. On Saturday's evidence a reasonable choice for the trial would be Old and Young versus Ball and Conner—and a place for Cooper on the wing, a position for which his pace and outstanding ball-playing skills make him well suited, or even at centre, where he won one of his caps (as a replacement in New Zealand).

None of what one might call the young pretenders to Uttley's position at No 8 has established unarguable right. Scott and Jeavons may have won Saturday's round, but not decisively, and Bignell's work rate was impressive. The young Bristol lock, Pomphrey, again produced some blistering bursts against London but, though he will play No 8 for Gloucestershire in the county final, he has yet to be tried there by the national selectors. They may find a short-term solution *from among the older guard*. Adey had a fine game for the Midlands at Bath, but could not play at Twickenham. Dixon can be switched from a flank. In either case, Neary's line-out capacity would be needed more than ever. And there remains Ripley, apparently discarded, but surely still with much to offer.

In the morning game, which started at an obviously too early hour for West countrymen, the full backs, Ralston and Sorrell (Ralston an early replacement for the concussed Bushell) both made too many mistakes. In the other, Hare and Caplan looked much the sounder, and Caplan was better enabled to show his pace and anticipation with two good tries. If Hignell is fit, and he still has a lot of leeway to make up, I expect Caplan to be chosen for the Rest.

London, leading 13—6 at half-time, measured victory by a goal, four penalty goals and a try to two goals and a penalty goal. Demming and Ball got their tries, the first of them from Ralston's intervention behind a clever double scissors by Ball, and Conner kicked all their goals. Kent and Nelmes scored tries for the South and South West, Sorrel converting both and also landing a penalty. *In addition to the replacement* already mentioned, Bryan came on for the London centre, Cooke (hamstring) in the first half.

In the afternoon game North led at the interval with a dropped goal by John Horton and a try by Caplan to a penalty goal, kicked by Hare from inside his own half. Young stretched the lead with a penalty, and North confirmed superiority with two late tries by Caplan and Maxwell (conversions by Young and Caplan) before Dodge, from a penalty tap, put in Knee for a try by Midlands.

MIDLANDS: W. H. Hare (Leicester); P. Knee (Coventry), B. J. Corless (Moseley), P. Dodge (Leicester), R. Barnwell (Leicester); M. J. Cooper (Moseley), I. Peck (Bedford); R. Cowling (Leicester), G. Cox (Moseley), W. Greaves (Moseley), R. Field (Moseley), I. Darnall (Coventry), J. Shipsides (Coventry), N. Jeavons (Moseley), D. Warren (Moseley).

NORTH: D. W. N. Caplan (Headingley); P. J. Squires (Harrogate), A. M. Bond (Broughton Park), A. Maxwell (Headingley), J. Carleton (Orrell); J. P. Horton (Bath), M. Young (Gosforth); C. White (Gosforth), K. Pacey (Broughton Park), F. E. Cotton (Sale), W. B. Beaumont (Fylde), J. Butler (Egremont), P. J. Dixon (Gosforth), P. Moss (Orrell), A. Neary (Broughton Park).

Referee: A. Welsby (Lancashire).

LONDON: K. M. Bushell (Harlequins); R. Demming (Bedford), D. J. Croydon (Saracens), D. A. Cooke (Harlequins), S. Tiddy (Rosslyn Park); I. Ball (Wasps), M. Connor (Wasps); T. C. Claxton (Harlequins), P. d'A. Keith-Roach (Rosslyn Park), K. Cairns (Bedford), N. D. Mantell (Rosslyn Park), M. Colclough (Angoulême), A. Alexander (Harlequins), E. Bignell (Blackheath), R. Mordell (Rosslyn Park).

SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST: D. Sorrell (Bristol); D. Newman (Bristol), C. P. Kent (Rosslyn Park), M. C. Beese (Bath), R. Clewes (Gloucester); C. G. Williams (Gloucester), S. Lewis (Ebbw Vale); B. G. Nelmes (Cardiff), J. Lockyear (Exeter), M. A. Burton (Gloucester), N. Pomphrey (Bristol), S. Boyle (Gloucester), G. Parsons (Bath), J. Scott (Rosslyn Park), M. J. Rafter (Bristol).

Referee: P. Hughes (Lancashire).

Irish and Welsh adapt well to the odd-shaped ball

By Nicholas Keith

The expatriates who watched London Welsh beat London Irish at Sunbury on Saturday will have nothing to write home about. There was no cheer for the Irish as their team went down by a penalty goal (3pts) to a goal and three penalties (15). By the end, they were happy to applaud Ellis-Jones, a Welshman who provided rare moments of dash amid the dross.

London Welsh dominated everything except the scrummages. However, even Alun Lewis, who can be such a fine scrum half, was affected by the general mediocrity. His inconsistency raises doubts about his claim to succeed Gareth Edwards in Wales's jersey.

Irish were without four players who had been called up for the provincial match between Ulster and Munster—Alastair McKibbin, Berrenger, White and Cordon. They were at their most inept in the tradition of a classic ethnic joke. You half expected some wag to say that they were not playing badly considering the odd shape of the ball. It is hard to believe that they are lying second in the London merit table together with London Welsh behind London Scottish.

Their forwards won some clean possession in the tight, but that was knocked, thrown, or kicked away by three-quarters who looked unlikely to score a try in a month of hooleys. London Welsh had a handsome advantage at the line-out where they did not seem to miss Howcroft. Neither did it matter that Bennett was not in his best kicking form: he collected three penalties and a conversion, but missed three other penalties and an attempted drop goal which were within his scope.

By half-time, the Welsh were 9—3 ahead through Bennett. O'Donnell had put the Irish on level terms briefly at the beginning, but that was more than they deserved. It would be better to savour the only score of the second half as the highlight of the match.

Ellis-Jones received the ball on the Irish 10-yard line, through Alun Lewis and Maidment. He trounced the defence with a shimmy and a kick which he gathered at full speed to run round and touch down behind the posts.

LONDON IRISH: D. Leopold; J. Casalaro, P. Crotty, P. Parfrey, R. McKibbin; P. O'Donnell, M. Mahony; K. Neale, K. Kennedy (captain), A. McGauley, M. Smythe, A. Higginson, W. Jones, I. O'Driscoll, N. Hogan.

LONDON WELSH: G. Lewis; C. Rees, T. Hughes, C. Maidment, R. Ellis-Jones; N. Bennett, A. Lewis; J. Deacon, I. Thomas, W. Davey, E. Lewis, R. Thomas, K. Bowring, J. Manfield, J. Taylor (captain).

Referee: C. J. Shuttle (London).

Scottish make their point

By Gordon Allan

London Scottish beat Birkenhead Park 37—0 at Richmond on Saturday, but it was not so one-sided as all that. Though outplayed in the forwards, Park tackled hard and moved the ball around adventurously whenever they could, so that there was no question of interesting defeat deteriorating into boring rout.

Scottish, who led 22—0 at half time, scored four goals, three penalty goals and a try and passed 400 points for the season, after 16 matches. At the same stage last year they had scored 205. They had a weight advantage in the tight: McHarg lorded it over the middle of the lineouts, and Biggar and Stewart, to name only two, beavered away in the rucks.

Lawson and Wilson enjoyed themselves at half back, and when the national team comes to be chosen it is anybody's guess who the scrum half will be, Lawson or Morgan. Lawson scored one try and made two others. Nearly everything is going right for him just now. If he fell into the sea he would not get wet. Scottish were slightly less impressive in their midfield play and in their finishing. Friell ran powerfully, but he and Gillespie were up against some good tackling by Colin and John Whitehead which meant that Macnab and Kelly on wings had fewer runs than usual.

Park were even denied the chance to kick a penalty. Gillespie had four chances for Scottish and succeeded with three of them. Park gave away far too many penalties at the rucks, sometimes in hard won attacking positions. Their backs deserved better, none more so than Lee-Gallon their fast, elusive Cheshire wing.

Macnab, Friell, Wilson, Pratt and Lawson scored the Scottish tries. Gillespie kicked four conversions and three penalties.

LONDON SCOTTISH: K. Martin; T. Macnab, A. Friell, D. Gillespie, G. Kelly; R. Wilson, A. Lawson; D. Fairbairn, D. Pickering, J. Fraser, A. McHarg, L. Forbes, M. Biggar, S. Pratt, A. Stewart.

BIRKENHEAD PARK: A. Donkor; G. Lee-Gallon, C. Whitehead, J. Whitehead, M. Jones; D. Newman, R. Whalley; A. Collett, R. Tinsley, R. Swain, A. Smith, J. Kerrigan, R. Locke, N. Powell, M. Walsh.

Referee, G. Treigg (London).

Rugby Union results

Inter-Divisional Final

Midlands	7	North	22

Inter-Divisional Play-off

London	22	South and SW	15

Club Matches

...on-on-Mersey	0	Macclesfield	12
...rnstaple	3	Rosslyn Park	33
...ath	12	Harlequins	19
...Ford	14	Moseley	3
...lackheath	7	Richmond	35
...ensley	13	Castleford	15
...ry	3	Tyldesley	12
...oventry	16	Gloucester	10
...mouth	12	Penzance & N	0
...	25	Wigan	12
...ide	3	Vale of Lune	16
...amorgan W	10	Exeter	10
...osforth	22	Nottingham	6
...alifax	3	Broughton P	9
...artlepool R	19	Harrogate	0
...eadingley	9	Sale	12
...uddersfield	22	Preston G	6
...lay	6	Lymm	35
...	6	Boroughmuir	16
...ndal	14	Davenport	0
...	15	Middlesbrough	11
...	[illegible]	Redditch	3
...ncester	19	Bristol	14
...Irish	3	L Welsh	15
...Scottish	37	Birkenhead P	0
...	20	Gala	6
...	45	Metro Police	6
...nchester	7	Liverpool	13
...tream	15	Northern	10
...rpeth	19	Alnwick	0
... Brighton		Nuneaton	17
...ley	18	Leodiensians	4
...mouth A	21	Birmingham	10
...	27	Blackburn	0
...nday	18	Hull & ER	7
Rugby	3	Saracens	14
Skipton	12	Phoenix P	6
Stoke	14	Widnes	6
Wakefield	26	Orrell	3
Warrington	4	Rochdale	6
Wasps	14	Northampton	20
Waterloo	26	Bradford	7
Welloe	13	Percy P	0
W of Scotland	9	W Hartlepool	13
West Park	7	Chester	6
Wilmslow	16	Morley	14
Wolverhampton	0	Bingley	3

WELSH CUP—SECOND ROUND: Aberavon 56, Ystrad Rhondda 10; Abercarn 7, Cross Keys 0; Abertillery 12, Abercynon 14; Bedwas 20, New Dock Stars 0; Bridgend 13, Waunarlwydd 3; Cardiff 27, Cwmavon 6; Cwmllynfell 13, Pontypool 20; Llandaff 9, Ebbw Vale 10; Llanelli 68, Narberth 3; Newbridge 26, Pwllheli 12; Newport 50, Rhiwbina 3; Pontypridd 31, Tumble 4; Rumney 0, Neath 16; Swansea 14, Pontypool United 4.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Brockley County 7, Howard 6; Chichester HS 6, Olchfa (Swansea) 4; Dauntsey's 25, Old Dauntseyan's 4; Durham 29, Sevenoaks 9; Guildford RGS 22, Past XV 12; Haydon 7, St Nicholas OB 13; Hipperholme GS 12, Wirral GS 15; Ipswich 3, Old Ipswichians 16; Judd 13, Reigate 15; Loretto 17, Old Lorettonians 10; Old Ruthlshians 26, Ruthish 7; Rochester Maths 6, Old Boys 10; St Joseph's Academy, Blackheath 17, St Ignatius 10; Skinners 14, Old Boys 0; Whitgift 29, Denstone 3.

Yesterday

YESTERDAY: Plymouth Albion 21, Rosslyn Park 10.

Irish trial teams

The teams for the final Irish Rugby Union trial at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, on January 7th, announced tonight in Belfast are:

WHITES (probables): L. Maloney (Garryowen); T. Grace (St Mary's College), A. McGibbon (London Irish), McNaughton (Greystones), A. McLennan (Wanderers), A. Ward (Garryowen), J. Robbie (Cambridge University), P. Orr (Old Wesley), P. Whelan (Garryowen), E. Byrne (Blackrock College), M. Keane (Lansdowne), W. Duggan (Blackrock College), H. Steele (Ballymena), D. Spring (Dublin University), F. Slattery (Blackrock College, capt).

BLUES (possibles): A. Ensor (Wanderers); D. Dobbin (CIYMS), M. Finn (UCC), V. Cosgrave (Wanderers), S. Dennison (Garryowen); M. Quinn (Lansdowne), C. Patterson (Instonians); G. McLoughlin (Shannon), C. Fitzgerald (St Mary's College), M. Fitzpatrick (Wanderers), E. O'Rafferty (Wanderers), L. Calvin (Athlone), S. McKinney (Dungannon, captain), J. O'Driscoll (London Irish), A. McLean (Ballymena).

Substitutes: F. Ennis (Clontarf), P. Andreucetti (St Mary's College), O. Campbell (Old Belvedere), J. Maloney (St Mary's College), J. Miles (Malone), D. McCann (Dungannon), J. Cantrell (UCD), C. McCarthy (Constitution), J. Power (Bective Rangers), M. Gibson (Dublin University).

McBride could leave Gibson behind again

By Richard Streeton

C. M. H. Gibson, an Irish centre fractured a bone in his shoulder playing for Ulster against Munster in the inter-provincial game at Ravenhill on Saturday and will be out of rugby for between four and eight weeks. This means Gibson will definitely miss the Irish trial and Scotland's visit to Dublin on January 21 which opens *Ireland's international* season. Ireland do not play again after that until France are met in Paris on February 18, though whether Gibson is available by then remains to be seen.

Gibson, now 35, is at an age when it can be hard work to regain match fitness quickly after an enforced absence. He has had an irritating succession of injuries for a season or two now. This latest mishap occurred shortly before half-time when Gibson in wet conditions tried to stem a forward rush by falling on the ball. He was in considerable pain and was detained in hospital overnight and seen by a specialist yesterday.

Ulster won the match 9—6 for a share in the title. An important contribution for them came from W. J. McBride, who retired from representative rugby two years ago but has still been playing regularly for his club, Ballymena. McBride brought about a great improvement compared with Ulster's recent performances in the tight, and at lineouts, and confirmed that even at 37 he remains the best second row forward in the country.

The Irish selectors have made it plain that they would like McBride back for internationals this season, but the player has not yet committed himself. Gibson, ironically, had an eye fixed this winter on overhauling McBride's world record of 63 caps. Gibson has won 61 caps, and it now seems likely that temporarily he must watch McBride draw further away from him once again.

Several of the Rosslyn Park players in the London XV on Saturday, travelled to Plymouth afterwards and were in the side beaten 21—10 yesterday by Plymouth Albion.

The weekend programme had its share of unseasonal joy: Harlequins and Bath each had a lock forward, Purdy *and Brian* Jenkins, sent off within a minute of each other for separate punching incidents. Harlequins won the match 19-12, their first win at Bath for 10 years. Gloucester lost 10-16 at Coventry, and had Haines, a flank forward, sent off for kicking an opponent in a ruck.

Nearly every important club fixture, and not least several merit table games, was affected by the regional trials at Twickenham. Moseley, with 10 absentees, suffered their second defeat on successive Saturdays when they went down 14—3 to Bedford who had four men away.

In the north the three leading sides, Wilmslow, Sale and Broughton Park, all from the Manchester area, successfully withstood challenges from Yorkshire. Wilmslow, the leaders, beat Morley 16—14 to end an unbeaten run for Morley that began in mid-October; Sale visited Headingley and won 12—9 to maintain second place in the table; and Broughton Park, though well below strength, won 9—3 at Halifax.

In London, Richmond gave one of their best performances for a long time when they beat Blackheath 35—7. Richmond excelled at the lineouts and in the loose, and Shackleton had a fine match as Richmond scored five good tries. Northampton and Wasps both provided some fine running at Sudbury in a match which brought six tries and was finally won by Northampton, 20—14.

Racing

Open verdict for Midnight Court

By Michael Seely

A decision on Border Incident's future will be taken early in the new year. Richard Head said yesterday that Anthony Warrender, one of the horse's joint owners, would not be returning to this country until Christmas. So in January Border Incident will have a veterinary examination before it is agreed whether to aim the seven-year-old at the Cheltenham Gold Cup in March.

If there is any doubt at all about the gelding's leg, he will be rested until next season. This must be wise. Border Incident is young as steeplechasers go. Now that his tendency to break blood vessels appears to have cleared up, it would be folly to risk jeopardizing a potentially-brilliant future. The Lambourn trainer reports that Uncle Bing is in fine fettle for his assault on the King George VI Steeplechase at Kempton Park on Boxing Day.

A new claimant for Gold Cup honours was seen at Ascot on Saturday when Midnight Court sprinted away from Master Spy between the last two fences to gain an utterly convincing victory in the SGB Handicap Steeplechase. 10-1 is the top price now on offer against Mrs Olive Jackson's six-year-old. Judged on the formbook alone Midnight Court still has a lot to find. He was only giving 2lb to Master Spy and beat him by seven lengths. In the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup, Fort Devon gave Tim Forster's eight-year-old 12lb and finished over 25 lengths in front of him.

That is sober fact. But although much of the interest was taken out of the race when Ghost Writer had his chance destroyed as he was hampered by a faller at half-way, Midnight Court was always cantering over his rivals. He is a quick and bold jumper, stays well and what is even more important has a devastating turn of foot. And when such horses start improving they can make a mockery of the handicap.

Midnight Court will now be rested. And, to be honest, he looked in need of an easy time on Saturday. An active, well-*balanced bay, the six-year-old had,* not surprisingly, started to run up a little light. With four victories to his credit, Midnight Court has had a busy and successful autumn campaign.

Winter's off-the-cuff plan for a Gold Cup preliminary for his rising young star was a tilt at the Compton Steeplechase, a three-mile conditions race at Newbury on Schweppes Gold Trophy day. But yesterday the great man was holding his cards closer to his chest. "Quite honestly I don't know". Winter said. "I need more time to think about it." The trainer's dilemma is perfectly understandable with such horses as The Dealer to be considered as well. Winter refused to be drawn about the Embassy Premier Steeplechase Final, but that Haydock race carries a rich prize and is not an event to be lightly cast on one side.

The champion trainer had both good and bad news about Snow Flier, so disappointing when finishing a well-beaten third behind the impressive winner, Artifice, in the Killiney Steeplechase. "Snow Flier has hurt his back. I'm at least glad that I know something's wrong with him. Make no mistake this is a very good horse."

Sad as it was not to see Snow Flier give his true running, there is no doubt at all about Artifice's *ability. He was never off the* bridle at any stage of Saturday's two-and-a-half miles and is clearly a top class steeplechaser in embryo. "Unfortunately Artifice cannot run in the Embassy final", John Thorne, his Somerset trainer, said. "He lost his chance of qualifying when Lingfield was abandoned last Saturday."

The other odds-on favourite to fail was Decent Fellow, who could only finish third behind Kybo and Western Rose in the SGB Hire Shop Hurdle. But Toby Balding is not too perturbed. "I won't pretend the race was run to suit us", the Weyhill trainer said. "And Decent Fellow didn't jump as well as usual. But the truth of the matter is that I must have left him short of work as the four-year-old was blowing for half an hour after the race."

Kybo's price for the Champion Hurdle has been cut to 12-1.

The most interesting race at this afternoon's three meetings is the Lauder Handicap Steeplechase at Kelso. Three promising young stayers are in the line-up—Tommy Joe, Brian Barman and Millhouse Boy.

Tommy Joe was backward when scoring at Teesside Park for Tony Dickinson. Brian Barman jumped like a buck in the lead until he fell at the third fence from home in Tamalin's race at Newcastle. The lightly-weighted Millhouse Boy was found to be a sick horse after his disappointing run behind Goolagong in the Wetherby Pattern Steeplechase. Brigadier Clive Usher's seven-year-old loves the mud, but I just prefer Brian Barman, whose trainer Arthur Stephenson saddled the 1,500th winner of his career when Bandyke landed the odds at Catterick Bridge on Saturday.

STATE OF GOING (official): Ludlow: Good. Leicester: Steeplechase, good to soft, hurdles, heavy. Kelso: Good to soft. tomorrow: Warwick: Hurdles, heavy; steeplechase, soft. Folkestone: Hurdles, soft steeplechase, good to soft.

Ludlow programme

12.30 BURGUNDY STEEPLECHASE (Div I: Novices: £548: 2½m)

3 110-021 True Wish, A. Dickinson, 5-11-13 .... M. Dickinson
6 f Black Auster, L. Morgan, 7-11-6 .... P. Richards 3
7 1-41400 Destiny Hill, S. Holland, 6-11-5 .... S. Holland
8 3f-04p0 Dolben Lass, J. Harris, 8-11-5 .... D. Sunderland
[illegible]

1.0 AMONTILLADO HURDLE (Handicap: £340: 2m 1f 30yd)

[illegible]

1.30 RUMPUNCH HURDLE (Novices' handicap: £544: 2m 1f 30yd)

[illegible]
50 0 Caerlaverock, P. Bevan, 6-10-4 .... D. Sunderland
51 0013-f0 Nicola Lisa, J. Peacock, 5-10-2 .... R. Dickin
52 0000-33 Ingress, D. Gandolfo, 4-10-2 .... P. Barton
53 10p010 Kerry B, E. Birchall, 6-10-2 .... Mr P. O'Connor 7
9-2 Somerset, 5-1 Timoshenko, 6-1 Prairie Master, 7-1 Love Rocket, 8-1 Ginnie's Boy, 10-1 Ingress, Rib Law, 12-1 Scot Lane, Kerry B, 14-1 Belton Cottage, 16-1 Subaltern, 20-1 others.

2.0 VINTAGE PORT STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £1,025: 3m)

1 2f0110 Gummers How (C-D), D. Gandolfo, 9-12-0 .... P. Barton
2 0-00254 Double Negative (D), T. Rimell, 7-11-11 .... C. Tinkler
4 26 Charlie Mouse (D), T. Forster, 8-11-4 .... G. Thorner
[illegible]

2.30 BURGUNDY STEEPLECHASE (Div II: Novices: £551: 2½m)

[illegible]

3.0 CLARET HURDLE (Handicap: £946: 2m 1f 30yd)

[illegible]

Kelso programme

12.15 EARLSTON HURDLE (Handicap: £326: 2m)

[illegible]

12.45 ST BOSWELLS STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £531: 2m 196yd)

[illegible]

1.15 BIRGHAM HURDLE (Div I: novices: £306: 2m)

[illegible]

1.45 LAUDER STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £826: 3m)

[illegible]

2.15 GATTONSIDE STEEPLECHASE (Novices: £510: 2½m)

[illegible]

2.45 BIRGHAM HURDLE (Div II: novices: £306: 2m)

[illegible]
8 0-00 Chesney Girl, D. Jermy, 4-10-11 .... J. Mooney 5
9 0 Clear Cry, I. Jordon, 4-10-11 .... J. Allen 7
10 0-00300 Easby Saint, D. Chapman, 4-10-11 .... M. Barnes
13 00 Joogley Brig, W. Crawford, 4-10-11 .... N. Doughty 7
13 Moka, R. Fisher, 4-10-11 .... —
14 Recoil, G. Wallace, 4-10-11 .... T. Bull 7
15 40 Ricabert, C. Bell, 4-10-11 .... R. Lamb
19 f04 Tatora, W. Crawford, 4-10-11 .... C. Hawkins
Evens Nellie's Lad, 9-2 Clear Cry, 6-1 Tatora, 8-1 Black Market, 10-1 Cool Siloam, 12-1 Easby Saint, 16-1 others.

Kelso selections

By Our Racing Staff

12.15 Om Shree. 12.45 BRORA is specially recommended. 1.15 Border Drummer. 1.45 Brown Barman. 2.15 Slane Lady. 2.45 Nellie's Lad.

Ludlow selections

By Our Racing Staff

12.30 True Wish. 1.0 King of Swing. 1.30 Somerset. 2.0 Double Negative. 2.30 Bawnogues. 3.0 Another Dove.

Leicester programme

12.30 MISTLETOE HURDLE (4-y-o: £516: 3m)

[illegible]

1.0 CHRISTMAS PUDDING HURDLE (Handicap: £362: 2m)

[illegible]

1.30 CHRISTMAS TREE STEEPLECHASE (Div I: Novices: £559: 2½m)

[illegible]

2.0 HOLLY STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £729: 3m)

[illegible]

2.30 CHRISTMAS TREE STEEPLECHASE (Div II: Novices: £561: 2½m)

[illegible]
4-1 Willrae, 9-2 El Menino, 11-2 Arctic Granada, 7-1 Rathdaniel, 8-1 Star of the Arctic, Strongbox, 10-1 Oh Jimmy, 12-1 Fin, 16-1 Tamique, 20-1 others.

3.0 IVY HURDLE (Handicap: £561: 2m)

1 03b12- Longacre, D. Gandolfo, 6-12-0 .... C. Candy
7 14-0202 Paper Rich (C-D), A. Goodwill, 4-11-4 .... S. Smith-Eccles
9 13bp2-0 Gentle Knight (D), J. Perrett, 4-10-13 .... L. Griffiths
11 341f0p Willy What, S. Mellor, 8-10-8 .... P. Blacker
16 013000- Major Crisis (D), M. Tate, 5-10-4 .... R. Hyett
18 004010- Fob (D), A. Birch, 6-10-0 .... J. Barlow 5
19 4300-00 Ferran (D), N. Hall, 6-10-0 .... A. Webb 5
20 2401-0 Sanctum's Gift, Mrs L. Dinewall, 8-10-0 .... S. O. Jones 7
21 010-001 Lucky Ambition (D), E. Edmunds, 4-10-0 .... Mr B. Thomas 7
4-4 Paper Rich, 3-1 Lucky Ambition, 5-1 Willy What, 11-2 Longacre, 8-1 Gentle Knight, 10-1 Major Crisis, 20-1 others.

Leicester selections

By Our Racing Staff

12.30 Sir Gayle. 1.0 Faithful Mata. 1.30 Jackadandy. 2.0 Stublick. 2.30 Willrae. 3.0 Paper Rich.

Ascot results

12.15: 1, John Cherry (11-8 fav); 2, Pueblo (6-1); 3, Good Prospect (11-4). 10 ran.
12.50: 1, Artifice (5-2); 2, Samuel Pepys (7-1); 3, Snow Flyer (4-7). 4 ran.
1.25: 1, Kybo (13-3); 2, Western Rose (6-1); 3, Decent Fellow (4-7). 12 ran.
1.55: 1, Midnight Court (6-5 fav); 2, Master Spy (8-1); 3, New Formula (16-1). 8 ran.
2.30: 1, Young Arthur (3-1); 2, Early Spring (5-4 fav); 3, Catsgore (6-1). 4 ran.
3.0: 1, Coffee Bob (33-1); 2, Bilsion (15-8 fav); 3, Holemoor Boy (11-4). 18 ran.

Nottingham

12.30: 1, Harry's Fizzale (10-11); 2, Take Aim (2-1); 3, Solecism (33-1). 7 ran.
1.0: 1, King Weasel (6-4); 2, Havanus (8-13); 3, Dusky (25-1). 5 ran.
1.30: 1, Son and Heir (7-2 jt-fav); 2, Grittar (11-2); 3, The Froddler (14-1). Southern Darling 7-2 jt fav. 16 ran.
2.0: 1, Moonstone Lad (7-1); 2, Robatic (5-1); 3, Foillmist (8-1). Banlieu 6-4 fav. 8 ran.
2.30: 1, The Tista (10-11); 2, Double Bluff (11-8); 3, China God (13-1). 8 ran.
3.0: 1, Hipparion (5-2); 2, Breeze Wagon (7-1); 3, Shore Captain (2-1 fav). 10 ran.

Catterick Bridge

12.15: 1, Meadow Walk (7-2); 2, Kings Singer (5-2 fav); 3, Royal Budget (16-1). 15 ran.
12.45: 1, Drumossie (4-5); 2, Varmeter (9-2); 3, Gold TV (25-1). 15 ran.
1.15: 1, Trim Lawns (3-1 fav); 2, Nevertheless (7-2); 3, Liricio (13-2). 13 ran.
1.45: 1, Fair Kitty (4-7); 2, Old Walter (25-1); 3, Crane Moor (50-1). 10 ran.
2.15: 1, Wylam Boy (6-4 fav); 2, Tailors Inn (33-1); 3, Arctic Challenge (11-4). 6 ran.
2.45: 1, Tony (3-1); 2, Flying Hogue (6-4 fav); 3, Mr Resistor (20-1). 11 ran.
3.15: 1, Bandyke (8-11); 2, Habbersupreme (9-1); 3, Wayland Prince (5-1). 18 ran. Hit the Roof did not run.

For the record

Billiards

CHRISTCHURCH: World open championship: M. Ferreira (India) beat M. Wildman (GB) by 3,460 points to 1,309.

Tennis

SINDELFINGEN (W Germany): Württemberg indoor tournament: quarter-final round: W. Fibak (Poland) beat M. Wuenschig, 6—4, 6—7, 6—1; N. Pilic (Yugoslavia) beat U. Marten, 4—6, 6—1, 6—4; Z. Franulovic (Yugoslavia) beat H. Kary (Austria), 6—3, 6—4; R. Probst beat U. Pinner. Semi-final round: Probst beat Franulovic, 6—1, 3—6, 7—6; Fibak beat Pilic, 7—5, 6—3. Final: Fibak beat Probst, 7—6, 7—6, 7—5.

MIAMI BEACH: Sunshine cup junior tournament, semi-finals: South Africa beat United States, 2—0; France beat Argentina, 2—0.

DAVIS CUP: South Africa beat Columbia 4—1 (Johannesburg); Chile beat Uruguay 5—0.

Volleyball

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Bristol beat Weymouth Vogue, 3—0, (15—10, 15—8, 15—13).

Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Toronto Maple Leafs 8, Minnesota North Stars 3.

WORLD ASSOCIATION: International competition: New England Whalers 5, Czechoslovakia 3; Soviet All Stars 5, Winnipeg Jets 3.

Cycling

MAASTRICHT, NETHERLANDS: Six-day Race: 1, R. Jlinen, G. Karstens (Netherlands), 331pts; 2, W. Puffgon, A. Fritz (West Germany), 206; 3, E. Merckx, P. Sercu (Belgium), 194; 4, D. Allan, D. Clark (Australia), 309 (one lap); 5, G. Braun (West Germany), R. Schuiten (Netherlands), 175; 6, U. Mampel (West Germany), G. Knetemann (Netherlands), 175.

Boxing

TORRELAVEGA, SPAIN: WBA featherweight championship: Cecilio Lastra (Spain) beat Rafael Ortega (Panama), on points.

INCHON, SOUTH KOREA: WBA light-middleweight championship: Eddie Gazo (Nicaragua) beat Lim Chai-Keun (South Korea), on points.

CREIL, France: European welterweight championship: Alain Marion (France) knocked out Jörg Eipl (W Germany) 15th round.

Lacrosse

NORTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: First division: Ashton 7, Old Hulmeians 13; Boardman and Eccles 4, Cheadle 16; Heaton Mersey 4, South Manchester and Wythenshawe 10; Mellor 10, Old Waconians 9; Stockport 7, Old Stopfordians 7; Urmston 8, Sheffield University 7.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: First division: Bexleyheath 2, Kenton 18; Croydon 7, Buckhurst Hill 16; Lee 17, Purley 5. Second division: Kenton A 9, Lee B 1; Purley A 3, St Helier 6. Third division: Barnet 15, St Helier B 1; Hillcroft A 4, Bexleyheath A 4; Purley C 5, Beckenham A 13.

WOMEN'S MATCHES: Barnet and Enfield 11, Putney 2; Reigate 4, Epsom and Ewell 7.

Rugby League

YESTERDAY: Dewsbury 5, Wigan 8; Featherstone Rovers 23, Bramley 8; Hull Kingston Rovers 21, St Helens 9; New Hunslet 5, Castleford 1; Salford 21, Wakefield Trinity 9; Warrington 28, Hull 6; Widnes 16, Leeds 5; Workington Town 7, Bradford Northern 5. Second division: Batley 6, Huyton 12; Keighley 29, Whitehaven 5; Rochdale Hornets 16, Doncaster 17; York 6, Barrow 5.

Table tennis

LEEDS: Group A: D. Douglas (England) beat P. Stellwag (West Germany), 21—16, 21—10; Stellwag beat L. Franklin (Sweden) 21—19, 21—15; Douglas beat Franklin 21—17, 21—9. Group B: M. Orlowski (Czechoslovakia) beat P. Day (England), 21—9, 21—19; T. Thorsell (Sweden) beat Day 21—16, 21—19; Orlowski beat Thorsell 21—14, 21—10. Semi-finals: Douglas beat Thorsell 21—17, 21—15; Orlowski beat Stellwag 21—15, 21—18. Final: Orlowski beat Douglas 21—10, 21—23.

Gymnastics

BRIGHTON: Women's apparatus championships: Vault: K. Robb (Huddersfield) 18.50. Bars: K. Robb (Huddersfield) 18.60. Beam: S. Cheesbrough (Tameside) 18.45. Floor: K. Leighton (Loughton) 18.60.

Show jumping

PARIS: Prix Hennessy: 1, H. Nooren (Netherlands), Pluco, clear round; 2, S. van Paesschen (Belgium), Porsche, and H. Simon (Austria), Tayar, four faults; 4, H. Parot (France), Carrousel, 7pts; 5, F. Mathy (Belgium) Lady Sun, 15.

Show jumping

Macken celebrates by making it an Irish double on Jabkar

By Pamela Macgregor-Morris

Ireland's Eddie Macken became the leading rider of the show yesterday when he took the Norwich Union Brandy Butter Stakes on *Jabokar, with the only* double clear round in a six-horse jump-off.

Of his rivals, Tim Grubb, on Inchcape Chicago, and Caroline Bradley on Lady Inchcape's Berna fell foul of the elliptical wall. The most prevalent area of penalty was the parallel which followed it, and accounted for Fred Welch on Saturday's puissance winner, Rossmore, Mick Saywell, *on* Trevor Banks's Casique and Graham Fletcher, on his father's *Cool Customer. Casique finished* one second faster than the winner.

Earlier, Hendrik Snoek and Rasputin gave West Germany their first win, disposing of Fletcher and his loyal servant, Buttevant Boy, in the Harris Carpets Knockout Stakes. Macken and the German-bred Boy were left disputing third place with Elizabeth Edgar on Everest Makedo.

The International Equestrian Federation have issued a statement concerning the decision of their president, Prince Phillip, last week in Brussels to use a block vote of the Bureau against the West German proposition to ban the use of the pain-killing, anti-inflammatory drug phenylbutozone. The statement says that the vote constituted an error of procedure and was nullified on a point of *order*. There is now a firm *commitment* to place alternative proposals on the agenda for the next general *assembly in a year's time, taking* into consideration the views of the veterinary sub-committee appointed to look into the whole problem of the control of medication.

Saturday afternoon's competitions resulted in a second victory for Caroline Bradley, this time on Marius, and another for Elizabeth Edgar, on Everest Wallaby, who did so well in New York last month. Boy gave Macken his second win of the week, and Welch, who has been without a top horse for several years, returned to the big time through the good offices of Mrs Norah Leppard's Rossmore II, a young Irish horse who cleared the sloping poles at 7ft 1in to win the Radio Rentals Puissance.

But Harvey Smith's attempt on the British high jump record of 7ft 6½in, set up in this arena 40 years earlier by Donald Beard on the late Fred Foster's Swank, was doomed to failure. It may be some consolation to Graf's owner than Don Beard recalls: "Swank was never the same horse again after touching down from that great height."

The Leeds based firm of Goodall *Backhouse, having sunk thousands* of pounds into sponsoring a racing car from which they got very *little* mileage, have substituted it with a horse—Yorkshire Relish, formerly Chelsea Girl, an eight-year-old grey English-bred mare which Malcolm Pyrah bought a year ago. The contract runs throughout 1978, with an option for 1979.

HARRIS CARPETS KNOCKOUT: 1, H. Snoek's Rasputin (W Germany); 2, G. Fletcher's Buttevant Boy.

NORWICH UNION BRANDY BUTTER STAKES: 1, E. Macken's Jabkar; 2, T. Bank's Casique; 3, G. Fletcher's Cool Customer.

CHRISTMAS PUDDING STAKES: 1, J. Harding's Marius (Miss C. Bardley); 2, R. Fernhough's Brother Domenick; 3, N. Pessoa Moet et Chandon Punch.

SANTA CLAUS TOP SCORE: 1, E. Macken's Boy; 2, H. Snoek's Asterix; 3, Buttevant Boy.

RADIO RENTALS CHRISTMAS CRACKER STAKES: 1, Mrs T. Edgar's Everest Wallaby; 2, J. Whitaker's Ryan's Son; 3, D. Ricketts' Hydrophane Coldstream.

RADIO RENTALS PUISSANCE: 1, F. Welsh's Rossmore II; 2, F. Ligges' Genius (W Germany); 3, four horses tied.

Rowing

Hard times theme of Cambridge trials

By Jim Railton

After two *successive defeats* in the Boat Race, Cambridge are anxious to put matters right. The theme *already is hard* times with the Cambridge slave galleys completing their trials a week later than usual last Saturday and they will be back on duty within forty-eight hours of the new year.

The scenario for the 1978 Boat Race is already beginning to take shape. Oxford look to their Shealy, a former American heavyweight world champion and Michelmore, an Australian world lightweight champion. Cambridge call up six of last year's losing crew and *four of* the Goldie eight who ran down Oxford's Isis almost halfway through the race last year *together with several promising* Freshmen.

Cambridge trials at Ely now consist of shorter and intermediate distances rather than one long haul over a full course. Saturday's trials provided close races enabling the coaching team to scrutinize the 21 oarsmen and coxswains on the short list for the Blue boat. Characteristically for the festive season, it was the Cambridge trial eight, "comedy", who just triumphed over their opponents, "tragedy", in what the Cambridge President, Mark Horton, described as "fierce competition". On board the better crew of the day were three Blues, Horton, Ross and Clegg, with Jelfs, a freshman junior international, completing the stern quartet.

"Tragedy" contained the Blues, Bathurst, Cooke-Yarborough and Waterer, with the four 1977 winning Goldie oarsmen—Dawkins, Davies, Pitt and Withers—divided between the two crews. Although no stars are yet in ascendancy—at least on paper—at Cambridge, the ingredients are all there for a healthy mix and 1978 could well witness an interesting Boat Race.

TRAGEDY: M. Johnson (Cheadle-hume and Clare), bow; A. Gray (Shrewsbury and Pembroke), *R. A. Waterer (Radley and Sidney Sussex), A. Baines (Norwich and LMBC), W. Dawkins (Westminster and First and Third Trinity), *A. E. Cooke-Yarborough (Eton and Caius), *M. D. Bathurst (Merchant Taylors Crosby and Pembroke), R. N. Davies (Shrewsbury and St Catharines'), stroke, J. Bailey (Swanage and Jesus), cox.

COMEDY: J. V. Watson (Berkhamstead and Downing), bow; J. Woodhouse (Shrewsbury and Selwyn), G. H. Pitt (Latymer Upper and Clare), P. Withers (St Peter's York and First and Third Trinity), A. Jelfs (Abingdon and Fitzwilliam), *C. M. Horton (Eton and Downing), *R. C. Ross (King's Chester and LMBC), *S. J. Clegg (Shrewsbury and St Catharines'), stroke, G. Henderson (Radley and Downing), cox.

The following also rowed in trials: M. Rochel (Chiswick and LMBC), C. *Davison* (Monkton Combe and First and Third Trinity), S. Hall (Nottingham HS and Fitzwilliam).

Law Report December 16 1977

Employment Appeal Tribunal

Shop steward not 'penalized' for union work

Robb v Leon Motors Services Ltd

Before Mr Justice Phillips, Mr E. Humphries and Mr J. G. C. Milligan

[Judgment delivered Dec 14]

A shop steward who sought a declaration that he had been penalized for taking part in trade union activities, contrary to section 53 of the Employment Protection Act, 1975, failed in his claim before the Employment Appeal Tribunal on the ground that his activities had taken place during working hours without consent or agreement to such *arrangements having* been given by his employers as required by section 53(2) (b).

The Appeal *Tribunal dismissed* an appeal by Mr Leonard Robb, of Doncaster, from the refusal of a *Leeds* industrial tribunal to grant him such a declaration.

Section 53 provides: "(1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, every employee shall have the right not to have action (short of dismissal) taken against him for doing so; . . . (2) In this employer for the purpose of—(b) preventing or deterring him from taking part in the activities of an independent trade union at any appropriate time, or penalising him for doing so . . . (2) In this section "appropriate time", in relation to an employee taking part in any activities of a trade union, means time which either—(a) is outside his working hours, or (b) is a time within his working hours at which, in accordance with arrangements agreed with, or consent given by his employer, it is permissible for him to take part in those activites; and in this subsection "working hours", in relation to an employee, means any time when, in accordance with his contract of employment, he is required to be at work."

Mr John Couch, solicitor for Mr Robb. The employers did not appear and were not represented.

MR JUSTICE PHILLIPS said that the employers, coach and bus operators, had employed Mr Robb since *1960* as a *public* service vehicle driver. Recently he had mostly driven long distance coaches, and in between *trips he* was usually in the garage.

Before 1977 only two or three of the employees belonged to a trade union, and the employers did not recognize a union within the meaning of the word as used in the Employment Protection Act, though there was no evidence of hostility towards unions.

In January, 1977, Mr Robb joined the Transport and General Workers' Union and was appointed a shop steward. On January 21 the manager *told Mr Robb* that he would be moved from being a long distance driver to stage carriage work. There was *no* doubt that Mr Robb preferred the former work and that he regarded *himself as having been* victimized for taking part in trade union activities.

The tribunal found that in acting as they did the employers had taken action *(short of dismissal)* against Mr Robb within section 53(1) because he had taken part in trade union activities. There was *evidence that he had shown*, as a shop steward, all the over enthusiasm of a recent convert, haranguing the employees at *unreasonable times* and reducing one conductress to tears. The employers' purpose was "to remove him from contact with his fellow workers in the garage and to isolate him on stage carrying duties . . .". The tribunal rejected his complaint that he had been penalized for his trade union activities, but found that the action taken against him was because he had been active in union affairs and over enthusiastic in carrying out his shop steward *duties*.

That finding would have enabled Mr Robb to satisfy the requirements of section 53(1)(b) that the action was taken "for the purpose of preventing or deterring him from taking part in the activities" of a union; but it was necessary for him to establish that that action was taken for that purpose in circumstances where it could be said that his activities, or those which he was prevented or deterred from taking, were taken or were to be taken "at any appropriate time". In the industrial tribunal's view his claim failed. The *tribunal pointed out* that he was taking part in union activities during working hours and that there *was no arrangement or consent* as required by section 53 (2)(b).

Mr Couch relied on section 58, which made provision for time off for union activities. By subsection (2), however, *the obligations imposed* on the employer by section 58 only related to an employee *who was a member* of a union which was recognized by the employer. Mr Robb was a member of the TGWU, which was not recognized by the employers. Accordingly he could not rely on section 58.

Mr Couch further relied on section 58 and the Code of Practice, by way of analogy, suggest*ing that Mr Robb's activities* in talking to his fellow employees in the garage were clearly activities at an "*appropriate time*". The Appeal Tribunal could not accept that. Either there were "arrangements" or "consent", express or implied, within section 53(2)(b), or there were not. It seemed plain there were not. Accordingly Mr Robb's activities, taking place during working hours, in respect of which there was neither arrangement nor consent, were *not activities* "at any appropriate time".

It was also submitted that such an "arrangement" or "*consent*" could be inferred from the terms of Mr Robb's contract of employment, part of which read: "The employee, if a member of a trade union, will be permitted at the appropriate time to take part in the activities of the trade union. . . ." But there was no definition of "appropriate time", and so the situation remained the same and made it necessary to see whether there was any agreement or consent to taking part in trade union activities in working hours. There was not, and no such inference could be made from the contract of employment.

The Appeal Tribunal agreed with the industrial tribunal and the appeal would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Pattinson & Brewer.

Tennis

Mrs Cawley's game is reborn

Sydney Dec 18.—Mrs Evonne Crawley, of Australia, the women's No 1 seed, who beat Susan Barker, of Brtiain, to capture her fourth New South Wales title, said her match was the best she had played since making a comeback after the birth of her daughter, Kelly, in May.

"I was much mare agressive today and had more power than reecntly, when I had just tried to *be conosistent and get some match* practice," she said. Miss Barker, the No 2 seed, said: "Evonne played very well and I *couldn't* find any weakness in her game to exploit. Everything I hit came back *harder and lower*."

Roscoe Tanner served 29 aces but needed nearly two hours and a *half to beat Brian Teacher*, a fellok American, 6—3, 3—6, 6—3, 6—7, 6—3, in the men's singles *final*.

"That was as fast as I've ever served," Tanner, who in one game served four aces, the fourth time in his career that he has accomplished the feat, said. He won $24,000 and qualified to play the other top seven players in the grand prix standings in the Mast*ers tournament in New York next* month.

An errie gloom cast over the *city but bushfires to the west* nearly resulted in today's final being curtailed. After Teacher *won the fourthset*, tying the match at two sets all, Tanner asked the tournametn referee, William Gilmour, if it was becoming too dark to continue because of smoke from the fires

Mr Gilmour said that he thought the match should continue but agreed that the light was strange. Teacher, who received a tumultuous ovation after his defeat, said he became tired in the fifth set. "Especially my legs—I *couldn't get to the net* as quickly as I wanted to", he said.

He attributed his defeat to Tanner's big *service*. "It's not much fun standing there watching the balls whiz by", Teacher said. Tanner did not serve one ace in the second set, which he lost, but served five in winning the third. He lost the fourth in a tie-break that went to 7—5.

In the fifth Teacher double-faulted in the eighth game, then a poor volley from Teacher, and a magnificent forehand passing shot from Tanner, gave Tanner the vital break for a 5—3 lead. His service, renowned as the fastest in the world, did not let him down as he fired his 28th and 29th aces, taking the set and the match.

MEN'S SINGLES: Semi-final round: B. Teacher (US) beat V. Gerulaitis (US) 7—5, 7—6, 6—3; R. Tanner (US) beat C. Letcher (Australian) 6—3, 6—4, 3—6, 6—3. Final round: *Tanner beat Teacher* 6—3, 3—6, 6—3, 6—7, 6—3.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Semi-final round: Miss S. Barker (GB) beat Miss R. Marsikova (Czechoslovakia) 6—0, 6—0; Mrs E. Cawley (Australia) beat Miss K. Reid (Australia), 4—6, 6—2, 6—3. Final round: Mrs Cawley beat Miss Barker 6—2, 6—3.—AP.

Evonne Cawley after her victory over Susan Barker yesterday.

European dates

The Football Association have announced the dates

England v Northern Ireland: May 3. Northern Ireland v Bulgaria: Republic of Ireland v Denmark. May 23. Bulgaria v Republic of Ireland. June 6. Bulgaria v England: Denmark v Northern Ireland. September 12. England v Denmark. October 17. *Northern Ireland v England; Republic* of Ireland v Bulgaria. November 21. England v Bulgaria: Northern Ireland v Republic of Ireland. Dates still to be agreed for Bulgaria v Denmark and England v Republic of Ireland.

1978: May 24. Denmark v Republic of Ireland. September 20. Denmark v England: Republic of Ireland v Northern Ireland. October 11. Denmark v Bulgaria. October 25. Republic of Ireland v England: Northern Ireland v Denmark. November 29. Bulgaria v Northern Ireland. 1979: February 7.

Skiing

Plank achieves third World Cup win in men's downhill

Val Gardena, Italy, Dec 18.—Herbert Plank of Italy scored his third world ski cup victory by winning the men's downhill here today. Dressed in an all-white suit, the 23-year-old Italian hurtled at an average speed of more than 111 kph down the Sasslong course

His unofficial time was two minutes 01.47 seconds. Austria's Peter Wirnsberger was second in 2:02.60 and his compatriot Franz Klammer clocked 2:03.32 to take for him a modest, third place. The icy and bumpy course took its toll on many competitors. Several favourites, among them Ken Read of Canada, Switzerland's Bernhard Russi and Sepp Perstl of West Germany failed to finish.

Three women's world ski cup races, due to be run at Saalbach in Austria next week, have been cancelled because of lack of snow at the resort, international Ski Federation officials said here yesterday. The races were two downhills, one already transferred from Bormio, Italy, and a giant slalom.

The officials said that warm winds at Saalbach had blown too much snow off the pistes to make holding the races possible. They were studying other sites for the three events to be transferred to, but it was unlikely that they would be held before the end of this year, officials added.

MEN'S DOWNHILL: 1, H. Plank (Italy), 2min 01.47sec; 2, P. Wirnsberger (Austria), 2:02.60; 3, F. Klammer (Austria), 2:03.32; 4, M. Veith (W Germany), 2:03.97; 5, W. Grissmann (Austria), 2:04.19; 6, K. Eberhard (Austria), 2:04.37.

WORLD CUP STANDINGS (to date): 1, I. Stenmark (Sweden), 75 pts; 2, H. Plank, 46; 3, H. Hemmi (Switzerland) and F. Klammer, 40; 5, K. Heidegger (Austria), 37; 6, P. Mahre (US), 36.

Yachting

Consistent sailing gives Victorians overall lead

Sydney, Dec 18.—The New Zealand yachts, Jenny H and Smir-Noff-Agen, finished first and third, but consistent sailing gave Victoria the overall lead after the first race in the Southern Cross Cup team series today.

The Victorians were placed second with Nitro, fourth with Superior and fifth with B195 to score 100 points, three ahead of the New Zealanders, who were let down by their third yacht, Swuzzlebubble, which was only 10th.

The race was a triumph for the designer, Bruce Farr, as his yachts filled the first three placings, and the centreboards, making their first appearance in the series. Jenny H, a one-tonner, and Smir-Noff-Agen, are both centreboard boats.

The start was delayed for over an hour and a half because of wind changes, and when the race got under way a 25-knot southerly *was blowing. It increased to* 30 knots during the afternoon, making the sea choppy over the 30-mile course.

It proved a disappointing day for teams from outside Australasia. The European Economic Community (EEC) team finished the best of the foreign contingent in fifth equal place on 53 points.

West Germany's Pinto gained most of the EEC points by finishing sixth on corrected time, well ahead of her French and Irish team members. The British team, who have spent *£95,000 on* their Southern Cross campaign, got off to a bad start when Zaviera, *skippered by the designer, Stephen* Jones, broke her rudder. The half-tonner was unable to finish and Britain were *lucky to finish* seventh overall to 50pts, thanks mainly to a good seventh place by Knockout, skippered by Bobby Lowein of Cowes.

FIRST RACE: 1, Jenny H (New Zealand); 2, Nitro (Victoria); 3, Smir-Noff-Agen (New Zealand); 4, Superior (Victoria); 5, B195 (Victoria); 6, Pinta (EEC); 7, Knockout (GB); 8, Ragamuffin (New South Wales); 9, Phantom; 10, Swuzzlebubble (New Zealand).

TEAM POINTS: 1, Victoria, 100; 2, New Zealand, 97; 3, New South Wales, 61; 4, New Zealand II, 57; equal 5, European Economic Community and Western Australia, 53; 7, Great Britain, 50; 8, South Australia, 46; 9, Tasmania, 44; 10, Queensland, 31; 11, United States II, 28; 12, United States I, 22; 13, Papua New Guinea, 19—Reuter.

Hockey

England will have to make more of the half-chance

By Sydney Friskin

Blues 9 Whites 8

In a tense finish Blues held on to their advantage to beat Whites in the last of the indoor hockey selection trials at the Leisure Centre, Watford, yesterday. Eighteen of England's best players took part, only two of the original 20, Brookeman and Freitag having declined the invitation.

After the trials the England selectors announced the following *party of 12 to take part as the* Roses in the international club tournaments at The Hague from *January 6 to 8*:

R. L. Barker (Old Kingstonians), J. A. Hurst (St Albans), I. A. Thomson (Hounslow), S. Eyre (Liverpool Sefton), D. B. Whitaker (Southgate), B. N. Mills (Beckenham), I. S. McIntosh (Beckenham, captain), A. G. Mayo (Teddington), R. Clarke (Tulse Hill), G. B. Nurse (Tulse Hill), P. D. Barker (Hounslow), G. N. Francis (Old Kingstonians). Manager: I. Taylor; Coach: D. Cawthorn.

Francis earned his position after the selectors ordered an extra period of 20 minutes in order to take another look at him and a couple of other players. He flicked his corners effectively, particularly the two from which he scored in the *closing minutes of the final* trial. This enabled Whites to reduce the lead from 6—9 to 8—9.

Careful thought must have been given to the omission of Saini, who scored only one goal for Whites and none in the two earlier games. Although his class was unmistakable the limited playing area *seemed to have inhibited his skills*. He appeared for the first time since the return of the England *(outdoor) team from India*.

Clarke made the best impression in the early part of the final trial, *scoring two goals from corners*, which helped Blues to build a sizable 7—2 lead at the interval. *There were also some splendid* bursts by Whitaker, who used the sideboards effectively, and *some clever scheming by* McIntosh.

Mills and Mayo were conspicuous in a splendid recovery by Whites in the second half. Mills might have scored more goals but for the brilliance of Hurst (a replacement for the injured Barker) in Blues' goal. He dashed out twice to smother the flicks from corners. By the time Francis had scored the last goal for Whites only a few seconds were left.

The overall performance was encouraging, though not particularly inspiring. The team will need to make better use of the half-chance which is usually so readily seized by the Dutch and the Germans. Barrett might not have been selected for The Hague but in view of his fine contribution to English indoor hockey he was worth at least a place in the final trial.

BLUES: R. L. Barker (Old Kingstonians); I. A. Thomson (Hounslow), D. B. Whitaker (Southgate), I. S. McIntosh (Beckenham), R. Clarke (Tulse Hill), G. B. Nurse (Tulse Hill).

WHITES: D. Burrough (Blackheath); S. Eyre (Liverpool Sefton), B. N. Mills (Beckenham), A. G. Mayo (Teddington), P. D. Barker (Hounslow), G. N. Francis (Old Kingstonians).

Umpires: R. Dakin and B. Parks.

England's group matches in the World Cup tournament in Buenos Aires from March 19 to April 2 are: March 21: v Australia; March 22: v Poland; March 24: v Canada; March 26: v West Germany; March 28: v India; March 29: v Belgium.

LONDON LEAGUE: Bromley 1, Purley 1; Guildford 4, Beckenham 2; Hampstead 1, St Albans 1; Hawks 1, Southgate 1; Old Kingstonians 1, Hounslow 2; Richmond 0, Blackheath 1; Slough 3, Tulse Hill 1; Spencer 3, Cheam 2; Surbiton 6, Dulwich 3; Teddington 4, Reading 3; Wimbledon 1, Maidenhead 1.

OTHER MATCHES: City of Oxford 3, High Wycombe 2; Eastcote 0, Metropolitan Police 0; Gore Court 0, Canterbury 3; Worthing 0, Old Edwardians (Southampton) 2.

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: North: Quarter-final round: St George's 1, Neston 4.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: India 4, Netherlands 2 (at Nagpur); India 3, Netherlands 1 (at Madras).

Brown Lad odds

Ladbrokes have introduced Brown lad at 4-1 with a run for the King George VI Steeplechase at Kempton Park on Boxing Day. Other prices: 5-2 Fort Devon, 4-1 Uncle Bing, 5-1 Fort Fox, 7-1 Royal Frolic, 10-1 Bachelors Hall, 16-1 others.

Sweeps Hurdle price

Decent Fellow has been pushed out by Ladbrokes to 6-1 for the Irish Sweeps Hurdle following his disappointing weekend run at Ascot. Other prices: 7-2 Meladon, 7-1 Rare Gold, 12-1 Chinrullah, Master Monday, Double Default and Troyswood, 14-1 others.

Court of Appeal

Test for excluding husband from matrimonial home

Walker v Walker

Before Lord Justice Stamp, Lord Justice Ormrod and Lord Justice Geoffrey Lane

[Judgments delivered Dec 13]

Where a wife is seeking to exclude her husband from the matrimonial home, the question which the court has to decide is whether, in all the circumstances, it is fair, just and reasonable to exclude the husband. The words "impossible" and "intolerable" in the context of the question whether it was intolerable or impossible for the parties to share the home were vague and subject to misuse in argument and should not be used.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by Mrs Jane Walker from the refusal of Mr John Hunter, a deputy circuit judge, to make an order directing her husband, Mr Herbert Leslie Walker, to vacate the matrimonial home in Denbigh Gardens, Richmond. The judge had merely continued an earlier order restraining the husband from assaulting or molesting her.

Mrs Ellen Solomons for the wife; Mr *Thomas Coningsby for* the husband.

LORD JUSTICE GEOFFREY LANE said that it was clear that there was serious friction between the husband and wife and between them, particularly the husband, and their children, a son aged 18 and two daughters aged 15 and 13. Obviously close proximity had produced the situation deposed to in the wife's affidavits, and it was plain from the husband's affidavits that there was substance in her allegations.

Their Lordships had been referred to *Bassett v Bassett* ([1975] Fam 76) and to various cases cited in that decision. *But* authority in cases like the present one seemed to his Lordship to be of little value.

The question which the court had to decide was what, in all the circumstances, was fair, just and reasonable. Was it fair to exclude the husband from the matrimonial home taking into account the behaviour of the parties, the effect on the children if the husband stayed, the effect if he went, the personal circumstances of the wife and the husband, and the effect on their health, physical and mental?

The husband's health was poor. He said that if he was turned out of the house, which was also his office, it would lead to bankruptcy. It seemed that his affairs had already collapsed.

The judge had been wrong. Life was impossible in the matrimonial home, and there was the added *difficulty of the children*. Blame was irrelevant. The real problem was who was to go. The children were the deciding factor. The wife had their custody and looked after them. Therefore the husband must leave.

LORD JUSTICE ORMROD, agreeing, said that it was now time for the words "impossible" and "intolerable" to be dropped. Both were exceedingly vague, and were being misused in argument far too frequently. The test suggested by Lord Justice Geoffrey Lane was far preferable to asking unreal questions.

The essence of the decision in *Bassett v Bassett* was contained in the words of Mr Justice Cumming-Bruce that the court should consider "whether it is really sensible to expect a wife and child to endure the pressures which the continued presence of the other spouse will place upon them". The court should solve the problem in terms of human beings and not legal quibbles.

Lord Justice Stamp agreed with both judgments.

The appeal was allowed and the husband ordered to leave the matrimonial home before January 1.

Solicitors: Perry & Co, Richmond; Warmingtons & Hasties.

Oxford University awards

The following college awards have been made:

MERTON COLLEGE. Classics: Exhibitions: A. C. Harding King's C S. Wimbledon; N. M. Jones, The King's S. Cheshire. History: Postmasterships: A. N. Bowett, Oundle S; P. A. P. Cahill, Bradwood S; P. H. Giles, Farnborough Sixth Form C; J. D. F. Tripp, De Aston S. [illegible]

[illegible] (engineering): exhibitions J. D. Armitstead, Lancaster Royal GS (engineering); M. R. Ashton, Gateway Sixth Form C (medicine); A. J. Blair, Yeovil C (chemistry); D. W. Parsons, Sedbergh S (engineering); L. D. J. Folds, St Alban's S (physics); P. D. Harrison, Bishop Vesey's GS (chemistry); D. A. Hollomby, St Kevin's Comp S, Merseyside (physics).

WADHAM COLLEGE: Classics: Major scholarships, Edith M. Hall, Notting- [illegible]

[illegible] (law). Mathematics: Open scholarships, P. I. Coackley, Ysgol Aberconwy; G. Normington, Leeds GS; C. A. Porter, Richmond S; Gunsley scholarship, S. J. Darke, Maidstone GS. Modern history: Open scholarships, R. P. Cooke Qu Mary's C, Basingstoke; S. P. Parissien, Dr Challoner's GS. Open exhibitions, D. J. Chapman, Huddersfield New C; T. C. Lister, Wellington C.

Modern languages: Open scholarships, [illegible]

F. G. L. Thompson, Douai S (chemistry).

LADY MARGARET HALL. Biological sciences: College scholarship, Margaret C. Colquhoun, Qu Anne GS, Yorks; Joan Landymore Scholarship, Tessa A. F. J. Van der Willigen, Roedean S. Classics: Joan Ashdown Scholarship, Sarah C. C. Thompson, Herts and Essex HS; Mary Hammill Exhibition, Elizabeth C. Duckworth, Tonbridge GS. English: Emily Gabrielle Thackeray [illegible]

[illegible]

Physics: Coombs Scholarship, [illegible] Ogilvy, N London Collegiate S; Coombs Exhibitions, Alison S. Owen, Accrington Girls' HS and Accrington and Rossendale C and Helen [illegible] J. Thomas, Fowey Comp S and St Austell VI Form C. Mathematics: Beilby Scholarship, Susan M. Peacey, Dunstan S; Coombs Exhibition, Fiona M. E. Freckleton, Westgate S and Peter Symonds' C, Winchester. Physiological sciences: Nuffield Scholarship, Caroline M. White, Edgehill C, Bideford. Chemistry: Coombs Exhibitions, Ruth A. Grieves, Croydon HS; Beilby Exhibition, Diane Lightowler, Bradford Girls' GS. Music: College exhibition, Yuki Konii, Utd World C of SE Asia and Millfield S.

University news

London

Professor J. P. Barron, professor of Greek at King's College, has been appointed Public Orator for three years from August 1, 1978.

Lancaster

Professor F. H. Lawson, formerly lecturer in law at the university and professor of comparative law at Oxford, has been appointed professor emeritus.

Dr T. A. Mansfield, reader in biological sciences, has been appointed to a personal chair.

Other appointments

Lecturers: R. L. Allwright, linguistics and modern English language; Susan D. Clayton, social administration; A. P. Howard, art and environment; P. F. Joyce, social administration; S. M. Lash, sociology; J. K. Newton, operational research; R. D. Penn, sociology; Dr J. A. Self, computer studies; P. A. Taylor, accounting and finance; S. J. Taylor, operational research; Sally Tomlinson, educational research; Dr Ruth D. Whitehouse, classics and archaeology.

Grants

From Medical Research Council: £22,898 for research into pressures on women engaged in factory work, directed by Professor S. B. N. Shimmin.

From Science Research Council: £17,176 for research on speciation of trace materials in industrial effluents and polluted waters, under Dr R. M. Harrison; £55,272 for research [illegible] under Dr F. Foster.

Heriot-Watt

Mr David Attenborough, the broadcaster and traveller, is to receive an honorary doctorate of science next year in recognition of his work as a natural historian, and of his achievements in zoology, ethnography and communications. Other honorary degrees are to be conferred on:

DSc: Dr F. E. Jones, FRS, visiting professor of electrical engineering, University College London; Professor Sir [illegible]

Science report

Virology: What makes the influenza virus infectious

Work on a chicken influenza virus may help to explain why different strains of influenza virus infect *some animals (including* man) but not others, and how some animal viruses acquire the ability to infect *humans. The question of* why particular diseases attack some species and not others is largely unanswered. *The answer probably* lies in both the properties of the infectious organism and the characteristics of the victim. The research of Dr J. Almond at Cambridge University has helped to shed light on the infectious abilities of the influenza virus.

He has compared two influenza viruses that cause fowl plague. One can grow only on chicken cells and the other on both chicken and mammalian cells.

To determine the genetic basis of that difference he made use of *influenza viruses'* propensity for exchanging genes very readily between themselves when grown *together. In that* way he was able to obtain a series of new hybrids with different combinations of genes.

Comparing the ability of those hybrids to grow on different cell types he *found* that *the ability to* grow on both chicken and mammalian cells seemed to be specified by a single gene. It is a gene specifying a protein thought to be involved in the multiplication of the virus inside the infected cell. One explanation for that effect would be that to allow the virus to grow that protein has to be compatible with the host cell machinery that is commandeered by the virus.

If the specification of host range by a single gene turns out to be a general phenomenon in influenza viruses it may help to explain how animal influenza viruses could acquire the ability to infect humans by picking up a new host range gene. It could also be useful in constructing viruses for live vaccines for use in man. What is needed is a virus that will provoke a protective response but will not cause disease. A hybrid virus may be the answer.

By Nature-Times News Service.

Source: *Nature*, December 15 (270, 617; 1977).

Nature, the international science journal, is published weekly in London by Macmillan Journals Ltd.

ENTERTAINMENTS

THE ARTS

MONDAY BOOK

Randolph Caldecott: illustration to A Frog He Would A-wooing Go

Picture book master

Brian Alderson

In a pillared hall behind the Italianate façade of the Manchester and Salford Trustees Bank, Randolph Caldecott played the clerk for five formative years. It is therefore a neighbourly act that the Manchester City Art Gallery—a hundred yards down Mosley Street from the bank—should be devoting its Christmas exhibition to Caldecott's more celebrated performance as artist and illustrator. There is something of a centenary atmosphere about the affair too, since 1878 was the year when Caldecott began the series of picture books that carried his fame abroad with all the dash of John Gilpin's nimble steed.

Naturally these picture books make up the heart of the exhibition, and the gallery has been lucky in obtaining several sequences which show the progress of his work from original painting to final colour-printed proof. (They include the five engraved woodblocks that were needed for one illustration to *The Three Jovial Huntsmen* and a set of nine progressive pulls which show the Farmer's Boy and his pretty lass emerging from foggy blodges into fully detailed colour.) What is truly valuable about the exhibition, though, is the representation it gives to all aspects of Caldecott's graphic work, and, through this, to the warmth and vigour of his personality. Among his earliest published works on show there are two cartoon stories from a Manchester journal called *The Sphinx* (1869). They are called "The Mistletoe Beau" and "Mr Bobkin's Christmas Party" and both of them, even at this early point in his career, show the ease with which he could marry words and pictures. Indeed, from Michael Hutchins's edition of his illustrated letters, *Yours Pictorially*, that came out last year, we know Caldecott to be a graceful enough writer, and, on the evidence of his work for journals shown here, more credit ought perhaps in future to be given to his obvious delight in the language as well as the looks of comedy.

Like Tomkins, who turned out to be the life and soul of Bobkin's party in *The Sphinx* sketches, Randolph Caldecott is a good man to have around at Christmas. There is an elegant frivolity about much of his drawing that is very infectious, and he relishes winter scenes as much as the spring-time ones that have always seemed symbolic of his art. In the watercolour drafts for *The Three Jovial Huntsmen*; and in a pair of pendant paintings of "Diana Wood's Wedding", done for the 1883 *Graphic*, there is a tanginess that carries you out of Central Manchester into a light and air that aren't easy to come by these days. (Beatrix Potter owned the *Huntsmen* pictures, as well as several studies for "A Frog He Would A-wooing Go", and later gave them to the City Art Gallery. Their influence on her is plain to see—just as one can find in Caldecott's engaging scenes of conviviality a style and an atmosphere later to be matched by Edward Ardizzone.)

If you get a chance to visit the exhibition—and you ought to if you can—you might try visiting the Mosley Street Bank too. It's now owned by Williams & Glyn's and they've made the pillared hall resplendent with renewed plaster-work and gilding. I doubt though, among the clack of today's adding-machines and the earnest confabulations of executives, if you will see any sharp-eyed young employee making caricatures of the customers.

Never forgotten or explained

Silence Will Speak
A study of the Life of Denys Finch Hatton and his relationship with Karen Blixen
By Errol Trzebinski
(*Heinemann*, £7.50)

Elspeth Huxley wrote of him "the legendary Finch Hatton, a man never forgotten or explained by his friends, who left nothing behind him but affection, a memory of gaiety and grace". Or, as Baron Bror Blixen-Finecke said, "My friend—and my wife's lover". Were it not for Karen Blixen's books, in particular the classic *Out of Africa*, Denys Finch Hatton might have passed as a footnote to the early history of Kenya, a much beloved, minor figure, a marvellously efficient white hunter, killed in an air accident at the age of 44.

It is a tribute to Errol Trzebinski, who herself lives in Kenya, and whose first book this is, that she has discovered so much in family records, in the reminiscences of friends, of a man whose passion was for privacy, and who had a penchant for dispossessing himself of records, burning letters and urging his correspondents to do the same. He was the second son of the Earl of Winchilsea, and a brilliant boy of whom much was hoped and expected. Very tall (he was 6ft 3in) physically exceptionally strong, and extremely handsome, he was one of the golden young men at Eton, a member of Pop, and friend to the circle of talented boys, including the Grenfell brothers, Patrick Stewart and Charles Lister, who were all to die in the 1914-18 war. Eton he loved—and was much admired and loved in return. Yet, as Mrs Trzebinski shrewdly points out, a comment in the *Eton College Chronicle* during the football season summed him up in a remarkably accurate way:

The Hon D. C. Finch Hatton when not charged is apt to be careless, uses the left side of his foot as if his leg were a golf club and kicks short. When charged he rises to the occasion and is very hard to get past.

Yet he failed the scholarship to Balliol and got a fourth at Oxford. By 23 he had bought a farm in East Africa, and from then on Africa was his life. He was elusive, not to say secretive. Even to his family, who adored him, he was capable to appearing or disappearing without warning, going off to East Africa almost without saying goodbye, returning just as unexpectedly, to go to the Russian Ballet, to the theatre, to see friends, to order shoes made to his own peculiar design at Peals. As his obituary in *The Times* said:

Denys always seemed to do everything he wanted to do, and never do anything he did not want to do. Anyone else leading such a life would have deteriorated.

In Africa he farmed, but records are scanty. He also met Karen Blixen, the wife of his fellow white hunter, Baron Bror Blixen Finecke. The story of Karen Blixen's love for Denys Finch Hatton has been chronicled before, yet Mrs Trzebinski manages to put a wider focus on the picture, both in the social setting of Kenya in the 1920s, and in glimpses of Bror, who appears a more attractive character than might be thought. The social strain on Karen Blixen, with her husband remarried, herself alone, struggling with a near bankrupt coffee plantation, and Denys Finch Hatton as neither a suitor nor an acknowledged lover is very well presented and the descriptions of the African scene are magical.

It is always a temptation, when documentary evidence is sparse, to extrapolate from fiction incidents which may or may not have happened in life. Apart from the prologue, Mrs Trzebinski has resisted this. She draws parallels, and invites agreement or disagreement, for example, in her recognition of aspects of Denys in the character of Morten De Coninck in Karen Blixen's story "The Supper at Elsinore". She is equally discreet in the treatment of their exact personal relationship. Most of their friends thought they were lovers even though they saw so little of each other. Karen Blixen spent periods of time in Denmark; Denys was frequently away for months at a time on hunting trips (there are lively accounts of the two safaris he led with the then Prince of Wales) or on mysterious errands of his own. By the time of his death, their relationship was over. They had quarrelled, and he had moved everything but his books from Karen Blixen's farm. Tragic as it was, his death freed Karen Blixen to write, out of her grief, the books which made her famous.

Finch Hatton himself comes alive in the pages, even though we rarely get his own words, except in fondly remembered, excellent jokes. It is hard to imagine what the rest of his life would have been like, had he lived. As one of his friends, Lord Cranworth, wrote:

With his vast talents he might doubtless have made a success in public life, but it just bored him. I remonstrated with him in later years for his apparent lack of ambition, and the more than partial burial of his great talents, but he was quite unrepentant, and pointed out that one had but one life, and he reckoned that few people had had more out of it than he.

Philippa Toomey

ECO/Groves
Festival Hall

Paul Griffiths

Berlioz's oratorio, *L'Enfance du Christ*, is becoming as regular a feature of the Christmas season as the *Messiah*, with which it is comparable only in having precious little to do with the nativity story and, indeed, not much of a connected story at all. The first part is basically a study of the troubled Herod, who must be the least credible character in all Berlioz, longing for the pastoral life as he orders the massacre of the innocents.

The second part is only there as a frame for that gorgeous chorus of shepherds bidding farewell to the Holy Family. Then in the third part we have the only dramatic scene in the work, where Mary and Joseph seek shelter in Egypt, this followed by the long epilogue.

Given the work's problems Sir Charles Groves did well in Friday's performance to concentrate on detail and leave the large-scale form to lapse as it will. In the first place he gave to the score the clear, pastel-shaded textures it requires.

The team of soloists was distinguished but uneven. Donald McIntyre, called upon to sing both Herod and the insipid Ishmaelite father, showed a subtle sense of character, but his performance was spoiled for me by his unwillingness to phrase.

By contrast, we had two of the most perfect exponents of that art, Peter Pears and Dame Janet Baker, as the narrator and Mary, with Ian Caddy singing well in the supporting role of Joseph.

London Gabrieli Brass Ensemble
Purcell Room

Paul Griffiths

Since both the Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Festival Hall were metaphorically decked with boughs of holly for carol concerts on Saturday night, South Bank habituees had no alternative but to join the London Gabrieli Brass Ensemble in the Purcell Room, and even that programme was for the most part light and entertaining. Pity the earnest music-lover on a Yuletide weekend.

The ensemble, consisting of the usual brass quintet, began each half of their recital with a piece by one of the Gabrielis, choosing the canzona "La spiritata" by Giovanni and a ricercare by Andrea. They were not auspicious starts. I have no objection to the performance of sixteenth-century music on modern instruments, and those who do may have been appeased by a nice performance of an intrada by Samuel Scheidt on two cornets and sackbut. No, the serious fault here was one of speed. Both pieces were played too fast, so that the players could not articulate phrases properly, nor sound anything but awkward in Andrea's metrical changes.

Happily there were no such lapses of taste, on the part of the players at least, in the remainder of the programme. The first half proceeded historically, through a suite arranged from pieces by Anthony Holborne, and a version of Stanley's "Trumpet Voluntary", which Crispian Steele-Perkins, the group's first trumpeter, had assigned to two small "Bach" trumpets in antiphony accompanied by the lower brass.

Then came a novelty, the second brass quintet by Viktor Ewald, who was on the fringes of the circle which included Borodin and Rimsky-Korsakov. His first quintet has long been a standard of the brass chamber repertory, but this second has only recently turned up in a Russian library. I think I might have been tempted to let it lie. It is a 15-minute suite of short-breathed little movements, with nothing special to commend them, though doubtless their existence will be enough for many brass players.

The rest was made up of Walton and Poulenc arrangements, Joseph Horovitz's "Music Hall Suite" and the first performance of a suite drawn by Richard Hill from his music for a forthcoming television series called, truly, *The Life and Times of William Shakespeare*. The music, is, we cannot but approve, a mock Elizabethan food of love. Now comment rests: we all must wait and see what has been made of this by ATV.

Cohen Trio
Wigmore Hall

Joan Chissell

There is always special appeal in a family team, so empty seats were few and far between at the Cohen Trio's concert on Saturday night. Raymond Cohen is well known as one of London's most stalwart violinist-musicians. Anthya Rael has long been his pianist as well as his wife. Their cellist son, Robert, still only 18, is an artist of whom we shall be hearing a great deal more.

Nothing in the programme showed them to better advantage than Haydn's G major trio, Op 73, No 2. They plainly felt the music in the same way, so that balance, blend and timing sounded intuitive, never calculated. The violin and piano enjoy most of the limelight in all Haydn's trios, and here Raymond Cohen's fluent lyricism and his wife's clear-cut finger work were delightful. Yet even though the cello part is closely linked to the piano bass, it was impossible not to notice what lovely, burnished tone young Robert Cohen brought to it, and how pointedly he phrased it. The glowing depth of sonority he gave the Poco Adagio was particularly fine. As for the final Rondo all'ongarese, all three artists relished its spitfire accentuation and temperamental rubato to the full.

Schubert's first trio in B flat is full of tunes, so with father and son to sing them out there was plenty to enjoy in this performance too. Nevertheless in the Andante their phrasing was somewhat short-breathed; they did not sufficiently carry through to reveal the longer span of the melody. The late Professor Westrup once remarked on Schubert's ability to give symphonic stature to a lyrical theme. The Cohen Trio do not yet quite share this gift, so that the work as a whole emerged a little under-sized—particularly the first movement, with its majestic opening subject. Even the Scherzo and finale needed more inner tension so as not to sound just pretty.

Beethoven's "Geister" trio reaffirmed their close-knit teamwork and faithfulness to the letter of the score. But here the pianist's impersonality kept the reading cool. Again it was the young cellist who got most inside the composer's skin.

'The King's Good Servant'
National Portrait Gallery

Gregory Martin

Generous loans from over seventy institutions and individuals from as far afield as California and Vienna provide a fascinating visual biography of Sir Thomas More—"The King's Good Servant"—at the National Portrait Gallery. The exhibition of paintings, prints, drawings, books, manuscripts and metalwork enables us to follow, in fascinating detail, the life of a leading intellectual and eminent statesman that ended on the block in the Tower of London.

A leading figure in the northern Renaissance—the intimate of Erasmus and the first English patron of Holbein—More's life was full and is well documented. That "man for all seasons", now a saint, was happy at home, successful as lawyer, influential as political theorist, prolific as controversialist, and until his resignation from the Lord Chancellorship, Henry VIII's "good servant" for over a decade.

Erasmus provides us with a vivid description of More's family life and also engineered its transformation into art. "Your painter, dearest Erasmus, is a wonderful man", so More wrote of Hans Holbein, then in his late twenties, who had arrived in London from Basle.

Holbein stayed with More at Chelsea and there painted a group portrait of his family, long since destroyed. But the near life-size preparatory studies, executed ad vivum, soon after 1526, still exist and have been lent by the Queen. More's father in twinkling old age; two of Sir Thomas serious, rather than merry as his friends also remembered him; his son, head bent over firmly grasped book; his ward and daughter, Elizabeth, both wistful and dutiful; these striking studies express the new, bold realism of the time that was to become a vital core in the future of art.

A drawing of the whole group (not in the exhibition) and two up-dated derivations of the lost original made in the sixteenth century, show it must have been the first portrayal of a bourgeois family in its domestic setting.

Holbein was later to fashion our image of Henry and his court. Tough and tight-lipped—such is his Henry in the small masterpiece from Lugano, or in the over life-size cartoon for the last fresco in Whitehall Palace. His image of the King, which found an echo in his rendering of Cromwell, the King's man of business who rose to power as More fell, suggests the catch-phrase of the time—'indignatio principis mors est'—which Norfolk had uttered despairingly to More a year before his execution.

Holbein's clear, hard-edge manner, adopted too by Cranach in his portraits of Luther, was an appropriate vehicle to express the hard-line attitudes of the protagonists of the Reformation. The open, friendly account of the monarch, probably made about 1536 by the Fleming, Van Cleeve, was not to be preferred. A similar humane vision infuses Matsys's diptych of Erasmus and Peter Gillis painted in Antwerp in 1517, as a memorial to their friendship with More.

The two portraits, long separated but about to be reunited in this exhibition, show the two scholars in the same panelled study sharing the same desk. Gillis, the secretary of the city of Antwerp, holds a letter from More, whom he had met two years previously thanks to an introduction from Erasmus, and leans forward to push a book towards Erasmus, who looks up from his writing.

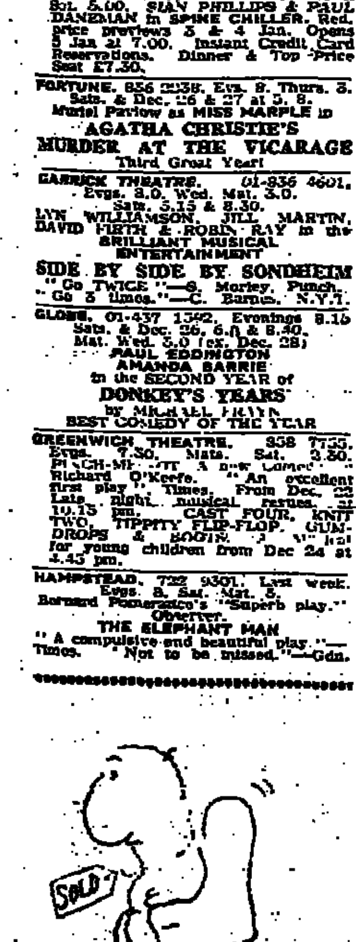
The diptych was sent to More; it describes the world he loved perhaps even more than that of his family; the world of scholarship, books and friendships based on shared intellectual pleasures.

Included in the exhibition are a large number of contemporary editions of books by More, his friends and opponents. Lilly's *Grammar Books* and Erasmus's *Ideas for a Christian Upbringing*, both written for Colet's newly founded St Paul's School, the first edition of More's *Utopia*, inspired by his meeting with Gillis in Antwerp, Anne Boleyn's copy of Tyndale's revised *New Testament*, published a year before More's death, and finally the manuscript copy of Henry VIII's *Assertio*, returned from the Vatican to England for the first time since it was presented to the Pope, a decade before the King required the English Church to submit to his supremacy—all these historical works and more are on show.

Service at court gradually removed More from the world of Christian humanism and scholarship. Early on, it took him to the Field of the Cloth of Gold, where he met Erasmus for the last time, and witnessed the meeting of the Kings of France and England. This glittering diplomatic reconciliation, staged amidst pageantry, is recorded in a magnificent panoramic view probably executed more than a decade after the event, in part by the Fleming Lucas Gassel.

The exhibition reaches a grim climax as it charts the unfolding tragedy of More's last months when he refused to swear to the King's supremacy and refused to say why. The display of the gruesome paperwork of those bureaucrats pushing through his removal begins with Cromwell's memo "to know (the King's) pleasure touching master More". There follows the Act of Attainder, the scrappy, physically devastated and, for More, treacherously devastating record of his conversation with Rich, and the record of his last interrogation in the Tower—bleakly and neatly summarized in four short paragraphs.

The exhibition shows, too, More's reaction. The deed of transfer of his property to trustees by which he anticipated the rigours of an act of attainder is shown; so too is the prayer book which he annotated while in captivity. In the Tower, he wrote five religious treatises; his manuscript of the last, *De Tristitia Christi*, has been lent from the Vatican. It breaks off unfinished, because pen and ink were confiscated not long before his execution on July 6, 1535.



Why the Barents Sea has suddenly become a hot spot

The past few years have seen the world's seas become permanently the public property of nations. The reasons are simple and familiar: oil fish, minerals, and sometimes strategic advantage. These motivations are all at their strongest in the Barents Sea, the water to the north of the Soviet Kola Peninsula and Norway's North Cape. In addition to providing one of Europe's richest fisheries and a number of *exciting oil prospects, the* Barents Sea is one of the sensitive places where Nato meets the Warsaw Pact.

The forces which are in conflict in the Barents Sea, and the demarcation dispute which they are gradually fighting out, have involved not only Norway, the USSR and Nato but also the EEC, because the *Community needs to protect its* fishing fleet. The Soviet/EEC negotiations which are now proceeding are one of the first acknowledgments of the Community's existence to be received from Moscow.

Norway has little military force to back its claim for jurisdiction and Nato is alarmed at the Soviet build-up

Like most isolated pieces of water no one cared much for the Barents Sea until a few years ago; even then, the dispute over its sovereignty was seen as an extension of the niggling which has been endemic since the Second World War on the Soviet/Norwegian border. Nato has frequently expressed alarm at the Soviet build-up in the Kola Peninsula, and especially at the major naval port of Murmansk. Although opinion differs about the numbers, Kola undoubtedly houses hundreds of Soviet aircraft and ships, including nearly 200 submarines, and over 100,000 Soviet troops. The totals are the result of a large build-up over recent years, and these forces provide a source of alarm for the Norwegians even though much of the force is strategic and would be directed at the United States in the case of a war.

The Norwegian forces in northern Norway are tiny by comparison, and no foreign *troops or nuclear weapons are* allowed there in peacetime. So the Norwegians have little military force to back their claim for jurisdiction over the part of the Barents Sea north and north-east of their own territory. To make things worse, Norway has only 15 submarines—although its own submarine-hunting force is considerable—*so that it is unable to* compete with the Soviets in numbers of submarines and might be unable to prevent large numbers of them from leaving Murmansk for the Atlantic in time of war, where they could become a major Nato problem.

The main problem with the jurisdiction of the Barents Sea is that Norway and the USSR have proposed quite different formulae for dividing the area, each based on strikingly simple self-interest. The *Soviet proposal involves dividing* the sea down a "sector line", a line of longitude from the North Pole to the Norway/Soviet border. The Norwegians would prefer a median line which would go in a north-easterly direction maintaining the same distance from the two countries' coasts; this is the procedure used for carving up *the North Sea.* The difference between the two methods is reportedly about 155,000 sq kilometres—more than the land area of England and Wales.

No sign of agreement has yet appeared on the basic issue of dividing the Barents Sea. The problem is exacerbated by Svalbard, the group of islands best known for the coal mines *of Spitsbergen. The islands* lie at the north-west corner of the Barents Sea, and some precedent for making the Sea militarily neutral may be found in their rather singular legal status. The islands are Norwegian sovereign territory, but the Paris treaty of 1920 makes them militarily neutral in perpetuity and provides no fewer than 41 signatory nations from Norway and the Soviet Union to China with rights to the islands' mineral deposits. The Soviet Union and Norway are the only countries to take the offer up, cutting through 700 metres of permafrost to mine *coal. The neutralization of the* Barents Sea is unlikely to be acceptable to the Russians because it would involve giving up what they regard as a strong bargaining position. The Norwegians are equally unlikely to agree to neutrality because it would involve de facto military surrender and because it would be technically much more *difficult to police* fish and oil exploitation in the Barents Sea than it is to let the two countries loose on Svalbard

Fish is a much more immediate concern than oil, and trawlers from a number of nations including Britain have been involved in clashes with Soviet gunboats in the area. *Last month British vessels* were ordered out by the Soviet navy while fishing on the Tidley Bank, said to be one of Europe's best remaining fishing grounds. The EEC has now been reduced to asking Moscow to issue a number of permits for EEC fishing vessels as a way of keeping fishing going in the area, and has backed up *its request by refusing to* renew permits for Polish and East German trawlers in EEC waters until the issue is resolved. The tonnages of fish involved are quite small, as Norway and the Soviet Union seem determined to exclude the EEC as far as possible. Thus they have just agreed to split 680,000 tonnes of catch *between themselves in* 1978 and allow other countries a total of 130,000 tonnes, 20,000 tonnes less than this year.

With oil, the position is far more tentative and the stakes considerably larger. The Norwegian Government is unlikely — especially in the aftermath of the Ekofisk blow-out—to approve drilling in the *hostile Barents Sea waters. But* the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate has undertaken apparently promising seismic exploration, the essential preliminary to drilling, in the area. Much of this work has been carried out by a British contractor, Seismograph Service Ltd, whose ship, the *Seisearch*, was subject to harass*ment by Soviet ships* while in the area. Some of the prospecting took place only 300km north of Murmansk. The survey was terminated by an abrupt Soviet announcement that rocket launcher tests would begin in the area; they have continued sporadically since, so that Norway will probably be unable to establish any definite idea of the area's oil prospects until the jurisdiction issue is resolved.

The signs are that this will be a longer job than arranging a temporary compromise on *fishing.*

Martin Ince

The author is the resources editor of Engineering Today.

David Steel

Liberals must use the bonus the pact has given them

At lunchtime on Wednesday, after a difficult morning-after-the-night-before meeting of the Parliamentary Liberal Party, I passed by the news tape machine in the library corridor of the Commons. It announced that uncertainty over the future of the Lib-Lab agreement had caused the share index to drop nearly 10 points during the morning—or words to that effect.

It was a sharp reminder that *during 1977 what the Liberals* did and said actually mattered. This is not a state of affairs to which the modern Liberal Party is accustomed, and it has been fairly said in criticism of my strategy as its leader that I have underestimated the resistance to such change in the grass roots of the party. But what grass roots? I have found not the slightest difficulty at astonishingly large public meetings and private meetings of the faithful up and down the country in the past few months in projecting the change in the style of politics which the Liberal Party is seeking to make. Moreover, the monthly Gallup polls have shown a steady majority who regard the Lib-Lab agreement as "good for the country".

Against that background it ought to be possible to campaign aggressively for Liberal votes and Liberal Party membership. There is no shortage of goodwill but it is not being translated into support. Why? Because a great number of party activists are riddled with self-doubt and sit in one of the legion of committees in the party debating where the party is going or where it should go, rather than explaining the direction it is actually taking.

That is not true everywhere. In the Isle of Wight the constituency of Liberal MP Stephen Ross suffers a Tory controlled council. Twice in the past few months the Liberals have gained seats from the Tories in local by-elections. It is one of the constituency associations which has proclaimed the virtues of the agreement from the rooftops rather than being defensive about it. *(These results also* give the lie, incidentally, to those misguided commentators who apply some pro-Tory by-election swing or opinion poll to the existing Liberal seats and then deduce that we shall lose half our existing MPs.)

Or take Liverpool. The local party which I visited three weeks ago does not allow anxiety about Lib-Labbery to stop its energetic campaigning. In three recent local by-elections it held one Liberal seat with an increased majority, gained one from Labour, and reduced a Tory majority from more than 2,500 to less than 500.

Few people join the Liberal Party in expectation of any reward or any power. That is partly its attraction. Academics or ordinary people just interested in refreshing ideas join it and contribute greatly to the outpouring of impressive policy documents, specialist *commissions and lengthy resolu*tions of a detail never attempted in the Tory or Labour parties. To them it is often a kind of Fabian Society with a few seats in Parliament and a number of councillors attached. Combined with this goes a protest vote which varies in size according to how fed up people are with the government and alternative government of the day.

I do not despise this role. It is an honourable one. And a useful one to be such a pressure group in the body politick, and one which the Liberal Party has *very effectively fulfilled for 20* years.

But is that all we want to be? I thought not. An open democratic leadership campaign *gave the opportunity for a* debate on what direction the party should take under its new leadership. I spelt out both then and afterwards that if the Liberal Party wished to return as a party of government we would have to secure electoral reform. To do that we should be prepared to share power, in coalition if need be, with one of the established parties. The present short-term agreement is an essential step in that long-term strategy. The party may forfeit some of its present vote, but by the next election we should be able to demonstrate a key role in assisting economic recovery while keeping at bay the threat of political lurches to the extreme left or right.

The special assembly of the party which is to meet next month must therefore decide whether it is prepared to follow such a course or not. I thought it had already, but I may have *been wrong. One factor which* has upset Liberals is the furious hostility of the Tory tabloid press. We are all portrayed as "hanging on to our seats". An obscure Tory MP makes a speech suggesting I will join the Labour Party and that rates front page of the *Sunday Express*. Liberals are used to being ignored, not attacked. Such smears will continue, and some Liberals genuinely begin to wonder whether it is possible against such a propaganda barrage to get across to the public what we are doing—*enabling the middle ground of* politics to assert itself. I understand that fear, but believe we must make the effort.

The one argument I dissent from is that *we can end the Lib-*Lab agreement and still not have an election. That seems to promise the worst of every world. The Scottish Nationalists, in speeches by two different spokesmen in the past fortnight, have reiterated their desire for an early election (though few commentators appear to have noticed). *Reliance on Ulster Unionists* would only further mess up the Government's so far creditable Irish policy, and the Welsh Nationalists have only three MPs. The national interest would not be served by having a "lame duck" government staggering from week to week and vote to vote.

I can understand the upset among Liberals at losing the PR for Europe vote, but their anger should be directed to the Tories who deliberately engineered its defeat. In my view the right course for the country and the party is to see the inflation crisis through, thereby adding a new dimension of credibility to the Liberal appeal in a general election.

Mr Whitlam pays the price for getting too far ahead of Australia

While the dismembered Australian Labour Party starts to bicker about the leadership, the man already almost forgotten and preparing to withdraw for some time at least to the back bench is Mr Gough Whitlam.

His exit from the forefront of Australian politics has been sadly uncharacteristic. Mr Whitlam has forever been proud, strong, flamboyant and forthright. Last Saturday, after his second resounding defeat at the polls, he concluded his career with the softly-spoken, almost humble sentence: "I myself will not be nominating for the position of leader."

For supporters of Mr Whitlam *it* was a tragic moment. After a lifetime of steadily directing himself towards the top, he had been cut down mercilessly at the relatively young age of 61. And for Whitlam supporters, that moment was also the end of any chance of continuing the effort to change Australia's direction. It was a rejection of idealism, and a return to the *standards* of the Menzies years, now firmly represented by Mr Malcolm Fraser.

In stature, intellect and vision, Mr Whitlam towered above his parliamentary colleagues and was possibly, in Australia anyway, a man before his time. He was a gifted advocate with a strong sense of public duty who was able to take the embittered, over class-conscious Labour Party of the sixties and transform it into a progressive, aware and intelligent organization attracting immediate support from a much more varied selection of the community.

Within weeks of Mr Whitlam's triumphant election to the *Prime Ministership in* 1972, after 23 years of Liberal Party rule, the new government had made vast changes to Australia's image.

Without any delay at all, Mr Whitlam ended conscription, disengaged from Indo-China, recognized Mainland China and adopted a far more independent stance in all areas of foreign policy.

At home, he initiated changes in social welfare, educational opportunity, urban renewal, regional development, environmental and consumer protection, economic rationalization, control over natural resources, support for the arts and a better deal for disadvantaged groups.

For those Australians who had begun to despair of Australia remaining isolationist, selfish, xenophobic and backward-looking, Mr Whitlam was a long overdue breath of fresh air. Overseas, too, he quickly gained international respect with a combination of strength of personality, modern ideals, articulateness and quick mindedness. In Australia, those who liked Mr Whitlam also admired his *droll* humour and obvious feeling for people. His detractors complained of his determination to turn everything upside down immediately, and of his arrogance.

The most unfortunate aspect of *the Whitlam regime* was that it coincided with the onset of the worst inflationary surge and recessionary slump to strike the Western world since the war. Most Australians, stunned by Mr Whitlam's speed at dismantling old standards and endorsing the new morality, tended to blame him outright.

Mr Whitlam had changed things and the country was worse off, therefore the changes had not worked, was the reasoning. This was followed immediately by the severe rumblings of discontent, trauma, and finally scandal with the celebrated Arab loans affair, within the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Mr. Whitlam *had* been obsessed with reform. He had neglected the management of those around him, many of whom probably found him too stylish anyway. The Parliamentary Labour Party started to fall apart along with the economy plunging and the people becoming rapidly disenchanted. Panic set in, and the *result was sackings and more* scandal.

Nevertheless, during all the prolonged agony of the loans affair and its many aftermaths, no one was ever shown to have been dishonest. The most serious offence proved was abject stupidity, for which Mr Whitlam ultimately had to take the blame and pay the price.

Then came, in November, 1975, his embarrassing dismissal by the man he appointed Governor-General, Sir John Kerr. Mr. Fraser had blocked supply in the Senate, Mr Whitlam refused to resign, so he was sacked. It was an event which seemed to affect his resolve and from which he never recovered.

Even two years later, during this last campaign, the thrust and zeal of Mr Gough Whitlam, the giant reformer of the early seventies, had disappeared. He seemed to be appealing to the electorate to give him another chance, rather than demanding it.

Now it only remains to be seen if Mr Gough Whitlam will lie down and watch Australia gradually return to its Conservative position of pre-1972, for it is unlikely that a Labour government will be returned within the next few years, and it is even *more* unlikely that any leader Labour can find will have the impact of Mr Whitlam.

Douglas Aiton

Can France's hovercraft challenger steer clear of the rocks?

The French challenge to Britain's cross-Channel hovercraft supremacy, seemingly so serious a year or two ago, is in imminent danger of collapse.

Their chief hovercraft designer, M Jean Bertin, is dead. One of their big new N500 *craft has been destroyed* by fire and the other (both were supposed to start on the Channel this year) has yet to begin service trials. The Sedam Company which built them has suffered a financial collapse, and the Dubigeon group which took over at the request of the French Government is also, like most ship-builders, having troubles.

Until the remaining craft had carried out extensive trials on the Channel, French Railways, who had their arm twisted to buy this one, are reluctant to spend up to £15m on another. Meanwhile, there are no further orders, *and the French government,* which has already put up £10m towards development costs has undertaken to keep the 300-strong workforce at Pauillac only until the end of the year.

All this is against a background on the Channel that has never looked rosier. British Rail Seaspeed are having their two SRN4's lengthened, *doubling capacity to over 400* passengers and 60 cars each—about the same as the N500. Hoverlloyd, with four widened N4's, carrying over a million passengers a year and expect a £500,000-£750,000 profit. Lost flights through unserviceability are down to 1 per cent, and weather cancellations to less than 3 per cent.

In the peak month of August these two operators (Seaspeed with one craft—half its fleet—out of service for lengthening) carried over 24 per cent of cars and 25 per cent of passengers on the short-sea route.

Hoverlloyd, with over 40,000 cars and 250,000 passengers, increased carryings by about 25 per cent over the same month in 1976, greater growth than any other operator.

The N500 hovercraft: 20 years of blood, sweat, toil and tears...

It all comes as a pleasant surprise to those early critics, including myself, who thought the hovercraft too costly, *uncomfortable and unreliable* to have much future on the channel. Costly it still is to buy and operate at £12-£15m for the latest big craft; but a conventional ferry now costs over £20m.

Uncomfortable it is compared with a ship; but people clearly think the faster crossing and more frequent service outweighs that. As for reliability, herculean efforts has brought it to an acceptable level. So what does the future hold?

Fate, which smiled on the hovercraft when killing the Channel tunnel, is smiling again by making the big mixed passenger-car ferry less economic. Forward-thinking operators like European Ferries are looking increasingly to year-round freight ferries with limited passenger accommodation, supplemented by high-capacity passenger craft for summer only.

The hovercraft, easily laid up and with few crew, might have been designed for just such a role. It would therefore not be surprising, though European Ferries' chairman, Mr Keith Wickenden, professes little public faith in the hovercraft's future, if he were among those believed to be interested in a bid for Hoverlloyd.

Clearly it is not impossible that within 10 years hovercraft will be carrying half the cross-Channel passenger and car traffic, for which 10-20 big new craft would be needed, plus opportunities elsewhere in the world. Are the French going to give that up?

Probably not. But it could be that as a result of a chain of misfortunes they may miss out on not only act one of the hovercraft saga (1960-1970) but also act two (1970-1980); and that they will not really make their presence felt till act three.

The French are desperate for more orders, without which they they cannot move from development to real production. But the N500, while undoubtedly of advanced design, is a virtually untried craft, which may need substantial modification.

It is not just sour grapes *for Britain's hovercraft* saits, who will be watching the N500's eventual debut with avid attention, to suggest after 20 years of blood, sweat, toil, and tears, that the French may have some misfortunes still to come.

Michael Baily

Shipping Correspondent

LEAPMAN IN AMERICA

When a United Nations committee the other day settled into a solemn if inconclusive discussion of unidentified flying *objects (UFOs), they* were reflecting a belief in extra-terrestrial intruders which is now held by more than half of Americans. In what is in some respects the most sophisticated country in the world, a recent poll showed that 56 per cent of the people believed that UFOs existed and had some inter-planetary connexion.

Moreover, 11 per cent of Americans—including President Carter—claim to have seen one. Now the latest smash-hit film, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind,* concerns itself with visitors from space in an ambiguous way which leaves spectators doubtful whether it is supposed to be taken as truth or fiction.

These, then, are inauspicious times for sceptics, which is what Dr Paul Kurtz, Professor of Philosophy at the State University of New York at *Buffalo,* boasts himself to be. He is co-chairman of the committee for scientific investigation of claims of the paranormal, which has found no proper evidence for the existence of UFOs and tries to counteract the nation's increasing credulity about this and other pseudo-scientific phenomena.

Dr Kurtz edits two magazines, *The Humanist* and *The Zetetic,* whose chief function is to investigate and generally debunk the claims of believers in the occult and the paranormal. He worries that extensive and credulous publicity given to such *phenomena gives* the public no chance to hear dissenting or sceptical scientific judgments.

A newspaper widely sold in supermarkets, the *National Enquirer* (broadly comparable with *Reveille* in Britain) comes out week after week with excited headlines alleging some happening which defies scientific explanation.

Dr Kurtz maintains that they are nearly all rationally explicable, if only the scientists are given a chance to explain.

*There are numerous manifes*tations of this move towards a belief in the unbelievable. The mystical religions of the East have been in vogue among some young people for several years. More than a quarter of Americans are convinced of the efficancy of astrology.

Transcendental meditation and extra-sensory perception boast a wide circle of believers, as do more recent pseudo-sciences like parasychology and psychic surgery. There is a resurgent faith in life after *death (again encouraged by the* President).

"There may be a major shift in outlook occurring", says Dr Kurtz. "It may not just be a media event but something much more profound. The scientific view of the world is being profoundly modified in many respects, and is being replaced by a magical and spiritual view of the universe in which occult and magical forces are seen to be at work.

"*We could be headed for a* total abandonment of the notion that there are objective standards of knowledge: a collapse of the consensus about *what constitutes a test for* truth."

Dr Kurtz observes that belief in the paranormal can be therapeutic, a modern substitute for old-time religion. "People seem to find relief in joining an authoritarian group which tells them what is truth. They see science as a way of creating products and doing wondrous things. There is no idea of science as a rational process."

The difficulty with using scientific methods to refute pseudo-scientific belief is that there are seldom mutually accepted tests. Scientists, even of the thoroughly conventional kind, are notoriously ready to criticize the methods of experiment of other scientists with whose conclusions they disagree.

The most notable example of *this is in the dispute over the* so-called "Mars effect" on athletes. Research has been carried out which seems to show that a disproportionately large number of sports champions in France and Belgium were born when Mars was in a particular position in the heavens.

If true, this would be powerful evidence in favour of astrology, seen by sceptics as a pseudo-science. Yet when Dr *Kurtz and two colleagues looked* at the evidence they found that it all hinged on the birth figures for the Paris area, and that these were for various reasons incomplete. Now they are doing a study of sports champions in the United States to see if the Mars effect is apparent there.

Dr Kurtz points out that there is a large vested interest in astrology, which is big business nowadays in the United States. "We find little evidence for the claim that horoscopes are true or that you can predict the future *or gauge personality* based on them," he says.

A dispute over testing methods was also part of the controversy over Uri Geller, the Israeli who amazed people in Europe and the United States for a while a few years ago. Dr Kurtz says that Geller's tricks, including the famous spoon-bending, have been duplicated by a magician on his committee.

As for UFOs, Dr Kurtz says that investigations show 94 per cent of sightings to have a rational explanation, and in the *remaining 6 per cent of cases* the evidence is unreliable. What President, Carter saw in 1969 (although mysteriously, he made no report on it until 1973) was most likely Venus, which is extremely bright and which would that night have been in about the position in which he saw the unexplained bright object.

Dr Kurtz predicts that the success of the film *Close Encounters* will result in an upsurge of UFO sightings. "They read into nature what they want", he said, "it's a kind of mind set."

He has seen the film and characterizes it as basically religious, *in that it seems to re*quire faith in "a new space-age religion, with mystery, miracles and divine demi-gods from another planet". It embraces many occult myths, such as the Bermuda triangle (thought to be an area where planes have mysteriously disappeared), cattle mutilations (which some think are per*formed* by extra-terrestrial visitors), thought transference and telepathy.

"It's full of mystical symbolism", he said. "Everywhere are lights and music and salvation. Everyone is transfixed by the splendid visitors from outer space."

Dr Kurtz is anxious to defend his committee against the charge that they have closed minds, that they prejudge issues and are not prepared to admit that anything exists *which is beyond* their understanding.

"We don't object to UFOs", he said. "We'd love to have them. We say that it is possible we have been visited by UFOs. It is probable that there is life elsewhere in the universe. But we have found no evidence that we are now being visited by extra-terrestrial beings."

Some of the committee's recent criticism has been directed at the National Broadcasting Company, one of the three national commercial television networks. They have, says Dr Kurtz, been producing programmes about the paranormal which treat as fact what is mere supposition.

One programme was about psychic surgery, practised mainly in the *Philippines.* Surgeons grope into a patient's stomach and produce blood and entrails, leaving no scar. Sometimes patients say they feel better, although in some cases the blood and entrails have been shown to belong to chickens.

The trouble is that the denunciation of such practices never makes for such gripping reading as do the claims of supernatural happenings. "The paranormal is big business", declared Dr Kurtz, brandishing a copy of a magazine advertising for sale palmistry, Egyptian amulets, pyramids with beneficial occult powers and do-it-yourself acupuncture kits, "*they make a lot of money* at it.

"If a believer writes a book, he'll sell a million copies. If a sceptic writes a book denouncing it, he might sell ten thousand." That is why Dr Kurtz and his colleagues have an uphill struggle, as reason often does.

هكذا من الاصل

TIMES PAST THE TIMES

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AN INDUSTRY IN DISARRAY

Several of the western world's industries are in decline. For some the problems are long standing, like those afflicting the woollen and cotton manufacturers of Yorkshire and Lancashire. Others have moved into difficulties in more recent years: notably shipbuilding. Even the newer industries, whose development has been linked with the technology of the space age, have begun to suffer. The *frenzied efforts to turn Hitachi* away from these shores reflect the insecurities of our television manufacturers.

No industry, however, has problems quite as bad as those of steel. As *The Times* today seeks to demonstrate, elsewhere in this issue, virtually all the world's leading producers are affected. The engineering advances made during and since the war, coupled with the wartime devastation caused to facilities in continental Europe and the birth of Japan as a major trading nation, came together to produce a new breed of highly efficient steelworks.

In Europe many nations, but notably the industrious Germans, erected new plant literally from the ground up. The Japanese, with virtually no indigenous sources of basic steelmaking ingredients, launched ships of unprecedented size to bring raw materials to their huge new integrated coastal works. The world's ability to produce steel has been further increased by the developing countries' decision to have works of their own. Indians, Brazilians, Venezuelans, and now even South Koreans have installed blast furnaces and rolling mills, mostly of very modern designs and tightly manned by very cheap labour.

All this activity has gone forward at a time when steel's traditional markets have been eroded. Naval architects have sometimes opted for aluminium superstructures on their ships; plastics have increasingly been used in car manufacture, and in buildings where reinforced concrete is often preferred to steel girders. In the 1970s the world recession has lowered overall demand, so that capacity for making steel far exceeds demand.

Past experience shows that recessions such as the current one are cyclical. Much of the existing spare capacity will be *needed again when the revival* occurs. But it is doubtful in the extreme whether Britain will benefit when the wheel turns again. Old plant, overmanning and relatively high wages make us uncompetitive.

When the war ended, Britain emerged with much of its capacity for making steel fundamentally intact. The privately owned companies were slow to introduce the new techniques which American managers advocated and which were logical in the resurrection and birth of the German, Italian, French and Japanese industries.

Our productivity is now abysmally low. The Japanese steelworker produces nearly three times as much liquid steel as his counterpart in Britain, and the ratio is worse in finished products. The American makes more than twice as much, and the Dutch, the Italians and the Germans are catching up with him. The British Steel Corporation would already have become insolvent if the undertaking were not state-owned. When the world economy turns up again, the orders will go to the most efficient manufacturers, and however the figures are juggled they do not include Britain.

What, then, is to be done? Inevitably there will be a clamour for protection, but that does not seem to offer an answer. If a Japanese producer is denied access to this market for his semi-finished steel, he will use the material at home to make low-priced cars and ships for export. Behind him stand producers in other countries like Korea, where still lower labour costs, coupled with ultra-modern facilities, pose threats even to Japan.

First priority must go to the closure of Britain's uneconomic works. Attempts to do this have been bedevilled by the understandable anxiety of trade *unions, and by political considera*tions; increasing the dole queues in Wales and Scotland does nothing to dampen the fires of nationalism. Yet the facts must be faced. Without higher productivity, there is no future for Britain as a steelmaking nation.

Sound arguments have been put forward by many respected steelmen for moving away from the large, integrated coastal works advocated by the late Lord Melchett and embraced by Sir Monty Finniston, his successor as chairman of British Steel. But it is doubtful whether the development of the five complexes at Port Talbot, Llanwern, Ravenscraig, Redcar and Scunthorpe can or should be put into reverse. Strikingly, losses at the Anchor site at Scunthorpe were last year as low as 70 pence a ton, compared with £46 at the most uneconomic plants. There may well be a case, however, for lowering still further the nation's ultimate capacity target.

Serious consideration must also be given to the advisability of remaining a jack-of-all-trades where steel manufacture is concerned. Strategic considerations alone preclude the abandonment of steelmaking. But do we really need to remain active in all areas? Should we not cede the production of some basic steels to Third World countries, and concentrate on high value products like special and stainless steels, where we still have valuable expertise?

MR BEGIN MAKES HIS MOVE

The negotiations between Israel and Egypt are now running like a fast train towards an unpre*dictable destination. If every*thing goes well a sufficient number of other people will gradually climb aboard to permit a ceremonial arrival at a full and comprehensive settlement. But the line could still peter out in the Sinai desert with a bilateral agreement which nobody else accepts, or there could be a nasty crash in which President Sadat falls and the survivors have to walk back to the starting point in a worse mood than before.

Mr Begin's visit to Washington has kept the train in motion and on the rails, which is valuable, but it has not yet brought a sure destination into view. Nor could anyone reasonably expect it to at this stage. There are still many unsettled issues between the two partners and many uncertainties about the attitudes of other interested parties. Mr Begin is clearly making an effort to respond flexibly and with goodwill to President Sadat's remarkable initiative. Although vague on details the lines of his thinking are gradually emerging. He is prepared to hand over a demilitarized Sinai to Egypt in exchange for peace and recognition, a leased corridor to the Gulf of Aquaba, and a buffer zone along the Gaza strip. This should be a relatively simple matter. Much more difficult is the problem of the West Bank. He talks of self-rule, autonomy, and free elections but apparently with some kind of Israeli responsibility for security and with a continuing right of Israelis to settle in the area. Also in his mind is some kind of self-government by religious bodies of the holy places of Jerusalem.

Presumably none of this represents an absolutely fixed position. Certainly his ideas on the West Bank and Jerusalem are not fully acceptable in their present form. Nevertheless, they leave room for negotiations to continue, and both sides have *in* fact agreed to go on talking. This in itself is progress. But the problem remains that they must not only agree among themselves but also produce a package which will maintain momentum towards a fuller settlement. Peace between Egypt and Israel alone will not be secure for either. Israel would face continuing hostility from Syria and the PLO. Egypt could lose even the support of the Gulf states. The "rejectionists" who foolishly excluded themselves from the Cairo talks must therefore be won over or split.

President Carter said last Thursday that the PLO had removed itself from serious consideration as a participant in the peace-making moves. This view is also held by others, so that unless the leaders of the PLO come in from the cold there will be attempts to settle the status of the West Bank with Palestinian representatives on the spot. Although most are members of the PLO they are not necessarily in full sympathy with the leadership. A local settlement might therefore be feasible. Arab patience with the intransigence of the PLO leadership is running thin, and even the Russians, who have given general support to the rejectionists, have never wavered in insisting on Israel's right to a secure existence. A position based on denying this right is now as untenable as one that denies any rights to the Palestinians. This is certainly clear to Saudi Arabia and Jordan, and even to wavering Syria, which President Carter placed among those wanting a settlement. Therefore, with perhaps a little help from the Russians, whom President Carter is still anxious to involve in a settlement, the rejectionist ranks may yet be slowly thinned. Then the way could be open to Geneva, which remains the destination to aim at.

David Wood

Mr Steel is reaping what the pact sowed

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the Lib-Lab pact from strictly the Liberal point of view, one or two statements ought to be beyond argument. First, that having fashioned the pact in March 1977, either for the national interest or crude self interest, it would be necessary to find a tolerable pretext for breaking it before any general election in 1978, or else develop it into an electoral pact wherein a grateful Mr Callaghan and Labour national executive committee would grant Liberals a straight fight against Conservatives in chosen constituencies where they ran in second place.

—Secondly, that the Liberal rank and file in the country as well as the platoon of Liberal MPs in the Commons, would inevitably be split by controversy over the pretext for disengagement or by any attempt to move forward to an electoral pact, and that in any such controversy Mr Steel's leadership, which has not yet sunk deep roots or gained much authority, would be up for auction.

So much was from the beginning predictable. So much now begins to happen. There was a valid *Liberal* case for a Lib-Lab parliamentary pact in March 1977, on grounds of both national and party interest. The International Monetary Fund had effectually ordered an end to socialism of the wilder sort, and the prospect was that a neutralized Labour Government would, within a year or so, succeed in curbing inflation, keeping a damper on wages, and floating out of an economic maelstrom on a surge of North Sea Oil. All the Government needed was a stable parliamentary majority in the Commons until the date of the General Election came near.

Mr Steel offered that stability, and Mr Callaghan caught the lifeline he was thrown, as he would have accepted it from Beelzebub himself. They were the two principal parties to the pact, and their very different personalities and contrasting political experience were factors in the troth they plighted. Of Mr Steel it may be said that nobody needs to agree with his politics or his judgment to like him. He is a profoundly serious politician, as fits a son of the manse, and he would always consult his conscience before he looked at opinion poll figures or by-election results. His integrity *has never been questioned, and if* he says that for himself the pact had more to do with national interest than with Liberal interest, then we may accept it.

Mr Callaghan, on the other hand, is the most experienced party political manager and manipulator we have, with long years of practice, in the trade union world as well as at Westminster, in divining where his only interest and any voting majority is to be found. He is always a realist and always a survivor. When Mr Steel offered a parliamentary pact he could not fail to recognize that he was being given the time needed to see an economic recovery before he went to the country in a general *election. It is* no criticism of Mr Callaghan to say that the pact served as a complete answer to his critics in the parliamentary Opposition and in his own Tribune Group. Only the resignation of Mr Michael Foot could have ruined the deal, and Mr Foot had in 1974 accepted ministerial captivity.

No wonder, then, that Mr Callaghan last week gave short shrift to Mr Steel as the Liberal Party became restive about an unfruitful pact. The Liberal Party, the Prime Minister said, must be Mr Steel's problem, not his. And Mr Steel has to go back to his party, after the overwhelming Commons vote for first-past-the-post in European direct elections, and justify himself before a special conference in January. He goes back in weakness. Mr Callaghan no longer has desperate need for Liberal votes in the Commons, because the economy may not be coming quite right but is at least presentable if he chooses a general election date soon after Mr Healey's spring Budget. The usefulness of Mr Steel and Liberal votes in the Commons is virtually at an end.

The question remains whether the Liberal Party has gained anything from the purely parliamentary pact that probably saved the Government from annihilation in a 1977 election. That will be the crucial decision for the Liberal conference in January.

With the best will in the world some of us have difficulty in knowing what Liberals stand for nowadays, especially if we were raised in days of Liberal glory. The fact is that many Liberals, including Mr Steel, if they had to choose between moderate socialism and Conservatism, would not hesitate to go *for socialism on apparently all but* a few economic questions, such as *lower direct taxation*, the encouragement of the small businessman, and co-partnership in industry. They appear not to have reckoned with the fact that Mr Reg Prentice did not use the Liberal Party as a halfway house when he deserted Labour, and that Professor Max Beloff, a born Liberal if ever there was one, left the Liberal Party to finish up in the bosom of the Conservative Party.

The rationalization by Mr Steel and his parliamentary supporters for prolonging the life of a nationalizing and, at its potential worst, anti-liberty party and Government, has been painfully inadequate, especially if (as Mr Steel agrees) they must disentangle Liberalism from Labour before the next general election comes. If it was worth maintaining Labour in office so that it would have a better chance of winning the next general election, why go to the special Liberal conference in January to hint that if need be Liberal parliamentarians would also keep a minority Conservative ministry in power?

Mr Steel should not be blamed too much. Long before he became leader, Liberal parliamentarians and strategists had accepted that their one hope of exercising effectual influence on government, as a Commons minority in a hung Parliament, was to enter into a pact of some sort with one of the two main parties. But in doing so they have compromised themselves, and when the next general election comes Liberals in the country are likely to say that they must either choose a new leader or choose between the two main parties. Pacts have always killed off liberalism. Twentieth century history is our teacher.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hospitals are for patients

From Mr John W. Jackson

Sir, Dr Francis and his colleagues (December 13) outline a problem that I have experienced in a number of National Health Service hospitals.

Too frequently a team of surgeons and anaesthetists may wait 45 minutes for a patient to be collected from the wards because no porter is available or it is his lunch time. It is not uncommon for a straightforward endoscopy list of six cases to take two and a half hours and yet in a private hospital outside the Health Service I and several of my colleagues have managed to do six such procedures inside an hour.

Patients have to be looked after and the work has to be carried out, and this is still being achieved by the medical and nursing staff continuing to work on into late hours, long after the administrative staff have gone home. In many of these discussions we hear about "work load", "bed occupancy" "theatre time", and these and similar terms are used more commonly than those simple words, "patients", "nurses" and "doctors", and after all that is what the Health Service is about.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN W. JACKSON,
Harefield Hospital,
Harefield,
Middlesex.

From Dr R. H. R. White

Sir, Like Dr R. S. Francis and colleagues, the consultant medical staff of this hospital have repeatedly drawn attention to the effect of extended holidays on patient services. The Birmingham Area Health Authority (Teaching) has agreed to holidays on (1) the first Monday in January when New Year's Day falls on Saturday or Sunday; (2) Easter Tuesday in lieu of Good Friday; (3) Tuesdays following spring and August bank holidays; and (4) extra days for Christmas and Boxing Day when these coincide with a weekend. In Jubilee year a further holiday was granted on Monday, October 24.

Thus, in 1977 we will have lost six Mondays and four Tuesdays altogether. Because money is not available for overtime pay, there is no alternative but to cancel routine services. Those consultants who have to hold their clinics or operating sessions on Monday or Tuesday are particularly vulnerable, and the effect on waiting list time is not difficult to imagine.

The medical profession, recognizing the beneficial effect of holidays, has no wish to deny hospital workers their rightful paid leave, but believes that staggered holidays would cause less dislocation of services. One observes abundant good will amongst people of all kinds who have chosen to work for the sick (and especially sick children), and the problem ought not to be insuperable. Unfortunately, however, the decision is not in our hands; it rests with weak higher administration which, remote from the hospitals in its luxuriously appointed, air-conditioned accommodation, appears to be more readily persuaded by the muscle of union leaders than either the needs of patients or professional advice.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD H. R. WHITE, Chairman,
Division of Paediatrics,
The Children's Hospital,
Birmingham.

Women barristers

From the Vice-Chairman of the Bar

Sir, Your issue of December 13 reports the publication by the Bow Group of a memorandum by Miss Mary Colton, a practising barrister, which is critical of the internal management of the Bar. Among other things the memorandum alleges that the Bar's governing body, the Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar, has made no attempt to comply with the Sex Discrimination Act.

The Senate is well aware of the implications of the Act and has appointed a committee consisting of three male barristers and six female barristers (including Miss Mary Colton herself) to examine the whole question of equal opportunities at the Bar. A questionnaire has been sent to all women practising at the Bar asking each to state whether the fact that she is a woman has, in her opinion, been an advantage or a disadvantage in qualifying and starting practice. When the results of this questionnaire have been analysed it will be possible to see whether there is a *discrimination problem which calls* for action by the Senate.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID C-H. HIRST,
The Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar,
11 South Square,
Gray's Inn, WC1.

Merging airports

From Mr Jeremy Godwin

Sir, Your Air Correspondent's "integrated system" (December 9) is excellent in theory, but experience shows that such centralised bodies are rarely beneficial, especially to the peripheral minnows, whose specialized local interests and needs are overridden by the grand design. There is no need for the BAA to take over the CAA airports; only that a "tidying-up" mentality thinks it desirable.

As for the coming surge of traffic, and its encouragement, surely we should be doing all we can to conserve the finite natural resources of this planet for the use of those who come after us, as well as ourselves. This includes the source of aeroplane fuel. Concorde's consumption is scandalous, as will be that of the extra millions foreseen; such traffic is luxury, not necessity.

The days of growth as the desired universal aim are over, but your correspondent seems unaware of this. The balance of payments must bow to reality. And growth forecast may not materialise, as with recent forecasts for roads and electricity. If this is why the "need" is claimed, the need is groundless and profligate.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY GODWIN,
15 Drovers Lane,
Penrith, Cumbria.

Equipment of the Armed Forces

From Mr G. R. Jefferson

Sir, With reference to the article on BAOR equipment, which appeared in your issue of *The Times* dated December 14, I feel impelled to comment on those aspects with which I am familiar.

First may I say that if the objective of the article was to gain support for a general improvement in the scale of modernity of the equipment of our Armed Forces, who face such dangerously overwhelming odds in central Europe, I, as a tax payer hoping to be defended from the imposition of an alien philosophy and government, would applaud the intention whilst recognizing that I may be accused of special interests.

I would, however, like to make two specific comments. First, in relation to anti-aircraft defence, I believe it is unfortunate that the article appears to describe Rapier in slightly derogatory terms. This system, which has fully met all the operational requirements laid down by the British Ministry of Defence, is the only modern low-level anti-aircraft missile system available to SACEUR from all the Nato allies. It is a highly effective system with good service availability in the hands of troops, is highly mobile and is half the cost of any other system, either available or projected, having a similar performance.

It is not true to say that Middle Eastern countries have refused to buy it because of lack of crew protection. Indeed this system is probably one of the most successful defence export products of all time. What is true is that my company, using its own money and initiative, has produced a tracked and armoured version of this system which we have additionally sold in the export field. We believe this version will in due course be a welcome and valuable addition to the BAOR inventory for roles where these characteristics are desirable.

Secondly in the field of anti-tank weapons no mention is made of the long-range Swingfire anti-tank weapon system. This system is still the only effective long-range anti-tank system available to the Nato alliance which can be fired from under armoured protection, and this remark embraces the American TOW system.

It is interesting to note that the Egyptians, who have most recently had fighting experience of major tank warfare, have adopted Swingfire for their own forces in preference to other Nato and Russian systems.

The Swingfire system on the FV.438 and the CVRT series of vehicles represents the best long-range anti-tank fighting kit available in Nato.

With regard to Milan, I would comment that to some extent the Army have only themselves to blame. Despite long years of advice from those in industry on the growing importance of man-portable anti-tank weapons in the offence-defensive balance, it was for many years the Army's policy not to re-equip before 1982 and they are now facing the consequences of their own conservatism.

Whilst I can only applaud the efforts of journalists and others to draw attention to the continuously increasing imbalance of conventional deterrents, I would hope that it could be done in such a way as to not unjustly knock some of the finest equipment in Nato which it so happens has been developed by British industry, sometimes in spite of considerable opposition from those in the Forces who now properly seek for more and better equipment.

Yours faithfully,
G. R. JEFFERSON, Chairman & Chief Executive,
Dynamics Group of British Aerospace,
Gunnels Wood Road,
Stevenage,
Hertfordshire.

Safeguarding the otter

From Mr Eric Bennett

Sir, The otter is not an endangered species. Here are some facts which contradict the ignorant assumptions of some so-called environmentalists.

First: in 1977 the Eastern Counties Otter Hounds hunted 44 days and found 27 otters. In 1957 the same pack hunted 55 days and found 38 otters. So the proportion of days hunted to find is almost exactly parallel.

Now it is true that in the 1960s otters became scarce. This was because of pollution. Fish died and frogs, a favourite food of the otter, were completely wiped out. So in our country the otters left the rivers and went down to the coastal marshes. Now that the rivers are cleaner, they are back in full force. The only difference in hunting over the past 20 years is, that whereas in 1957 we killed 22 of the otters we found, still leaving a good breeding stock, in 1977 we, in accordance with the voluntary code agreed by the Masters of Otter Hounds Association, did not kill one.

Second: the report of the Joint Otter Group convened by the Nature Conservancy Council and the Society for the Promotion of Nature Conservatism, said in June, 1977: "On the limited information available at present (sic) the otter would not appear to be sufficiently endangered for it to be added to Schedule 1 of the Act on a national basis."

Third: the map of the distribution of the otter in the United Kingdom, compiled by the Biological Research Centre of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, and which is admittedly not a complete survey, shows that otters are plentiful except in the Midlands. (March 1977.)

Your obedient servant,
ERIC BENNETT, Chairman,
Eastern Counties Otter Hounds,
Shudy Camps Park,
Cambridgeshire.

The Chogyal of Sikkim

From Mr Brian Crozier

Sir, Through the courtesy of your columns, I have been able to draw attention to the harsh treatment meted out to the Chogyal of Sikkim by the Indian Government under Mrs Gandhi. From a reliable source, I now learn that the harassment of the Sikkim family continues under the Desai Government.

Specifically, after a brief improvement, restrictions have been placed on the Chogyal's freedom of movement; his ad hoc allowance has been stopped; and late last month he was refused permission to visit Rumtek monastery. The only discernible reason for this treatment is that there were crowds along the road to cheer him on his way back from a meeting with the Indian Prime Minister.

The Gangtok law courts condone all encroachments on palace land, while the Chogyal's sister, Princess Kukula, is constantly harassed by police. Her flat has been searched several times, she has been served with injunctions to prove that liquor in her possession has not been smuggled in, and that guns she brought from Tibet are legally in her possession. When the liquor and gun cases collapsed, the Princess having been able to prove that she had valid papers, a further set of injunctions were served on her, declaring that her import permits related to India and that since Sikkim was then a separate country, she had to produce Sikkimese licences as well.

This kind of petty harassment is unworthy of the great Indian democracy, and especially of a Government committed to removing the abuses of its predecessor.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN CROZIER,
112 Bridge Lane,
Temple Fortune, NW11.
December 14.

Attack on National Front

From Mr Amrik Singh Gill

Sir, As an immigrant I find your leader (December 9) profoundly disturbing. It seemed to confirm my suspicion, and I believe that the immigrant community in general share my view, that there are certain sections of respectable British society that covertly support the National Front. I hope I am wrong in supposing that *The Times* is *among them.*

In your zeal for "natural justice" you forget, or conveniently ignore, just one fact—a fact that for we immigrants is the only objective reality coming out of the whole sordid affair—and that is that the NF is not just a political party in any ordinary sense of the word. How do you sir, equate the NF with the Liberals, Labour, Conservatives, or even the "extreme left", when none of these has to my knowledge posed as a threat to the livelihood and wellbeing of an at-risk group like the immigrants. Let me make quite clear that I belong to no political party.

The NF runs a constant campaign to intimidate the immigrants into leaving this country. Whenever an NF man appears on television and pours out his venom I am lost for words and shocked into a state of gloom and despondency. Is it moral, I advance, to cause such suffering to so many people? In your quest for academic definitions of racism, and morals concerning television time for NF you forget the core of the problem—the plight of the immigrants. This leads me to believe that your "natural justice" in fact means the availability of all the resources of a modern industrial society to frighten and intimidate a group of people who, by virtue of their socio-economic position, are inherently vulnerable.

Yours faithfully,
AMRIK SINGH GILL,
40 Pencombe Drive,
Wolverhampton,
West Midlands.
December 11.

Leadership in Rhodesia

From Dr L. E. Furtmüller

Sir, The fragmentation of the black leadership in Rhodesia is perhaps the gravest legacy of UDI. Here, the crucial conflict appears to be the personal animosity between Joshua Nkomo and Bishop Muzorewa. Both are masterful, both ambitious, yet their ambitions need not clash. Muzorewa, though not a skilful operator in the thickets of day-to-day politics—not a second Makarios—is revered by millions who gratefully remember his leadership in rallying the successful opposition to the British-Rhodesian settlement proposals in 1972. Both men *abhor tribalism; yet their quarrel* threatens to stir up tribal passions which can easily get out of hand.

At a time when thousands of freedom fighters ("terrorists") are ready to sacrifice their lives, could not those two Zimbabwe patriots and devout Christians sacrifice their pride for the sake of their country? Together they would form a black leadership with both democratic credentials and military muscle. A constitutional arrangement envisaging a Head of State with the functions of a constitutional monarch, elected by universal suffrage, and a Government under a Prime Minister with strong powers might provide a worthy place for each of these two leaders. There would be no need, then, for misgivings about early elections. The outcome would be a boon to all concerned with the exception of the lunatic fringes on both sides.

LUX FURTMÜLLER,
61 Kidmore End Road,
Emmer Green,
Reading.

The courteous gull

From Mrs C. Hart

Sir, Perhaps the gulls are familiar with the Rules of the Air and Air Traffic Control Regulations 1976, which state, Rule 17 (5):

An aircraft while landing or on final approach to land shall have the right of way over other aircraft in flight or on the ground or water.

Yours sincerely,
H. L. HART,
2 The Street,
Weeley,
Clacton on Sea,
Essex.

Liberals and the European elections

From Mr J. E. Hamilton

Sir, Tuesday's vote on the method of election to the European Parliament raises several issues.

1. With Liberals probably unable to win a seat in the new Parliament, the average English voter will probably be represented by a politely indifferent Tory, or an ambiguous or lukewarm Socialist. According to *The Economist*, at a recent visit to the EEC Mrs Thatcher "left the strong impression that any Tory EEC policy would not be very different from Mr Callaghan's". The real alternative case, that of a federal Europe, will probably not find a single English follower in the elected Parliament.

2. Liberals are unlikely to forgive and forget this deliberate gerrymandering. It is one matter to change the existing system, quite another deliberately to introduce a new system relying on the blatant and proved bias of the "first past the post" system. For this reason the pact is no longer acceptable to Liberal activists.

3. Adoption of a system of proportional representation for the second European election is by no means certain. One of the Assistant Secretaries suggested to a party of visitors at the time of the EEC referendum that it could take to the year 2000 to settle the system of election. Eurodelay is well known. After all the Treaty of Rome only gave the delegated Assembly two jobs. One was to work out its procedure and the other, believe it or not, to work out a common system of elections. Such abysmal failure to carry out its allotted task will no doubt be followed by the new Parliament. After Eurodelay, however, we have Eurobarter, and it is by no means unthinkable, for example, for French acceptance of the UK's exceptional electoral system to be bartered for Britain's acceptance of the early admission of Spain to the EEC—a French favourite for some reason.

4. Obliteration of UK Liberals from the first elected EEC Parliament, even if (3) above proves invalid, will leave us so far behind in knowledge of the mass of ongoing information that it will set back the Liberals' involvement for a decade and deny UK Liberals a platform for their EEC views.

5. It is no use Liberals hoping that a European Court of Justice can help because this particular field is not covered by its jurisdiction, nor that European Liberal colleagues will help. Luxembourg Liberals, for example, spent all their time in ensuring that they were well represented, their country—the size of an English county—will have six representatives.

6. If logic and talk all fail, there is only one thing we can do—to take to the streets, to campaign as vigorously and aggressively as our forefathers have done before. Political protest is a tradition of the English scene, a tradition more strongly ingrained than any crackpot "first past the post" electoral system.

We shall fight for representative democracy.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. HAMILTON,
Liberal Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Rushcliffe,
7 Costock Road,
East Leake,
Loughborough,
Leicestershire.

Crown Agents inquiry

From Lord Tanlaw

Sir, Mr Du Cann may be misguided in his defence of the Auditor General (December 13). Nobody can be in much doubt about the dedication, industry and integrity of the Auditor General's Department. But what I believe could be in question is the format and presentation of departmental accounts to the Public Accounts Committee. For instance, there is a note to the 1975 Crown Agents' accounts which states as follows:

"The object of preparing the accompanying accounts has been to show substantially the same amount of information as if the body were corporate and subject to the requirements of the Companies Act."

The implication of the statement is that this method of accounting is the exception rather than the rule for government departments. If this is so, then it is small wonder that major deficiencies can occur without detection from the Public Accounts Committee.

*The Fay committee clearly indi*cated that there was not only lack of interest in the Crown Agents' accounts from the Minister downwards but that they may have been incomprehensible to the heads of the department and its executives as well. Therefore, Professor Stamp's modest request (letter December 12) for more qualified accountants to be incorporated into the Auditor General's Department seems extremely reasonable under the circumstances. If it transpires that, as a result of the public inquiry that "public accountability" means in future more government departments will conform to the minimum requirements of the Companies Act, *then perhaps £200m of taxpayers'* money may not have been lost in vain after all.

Yours faithfully,
TANLAW,
House of Lords.

From the same school

From Mr Philip Palmer

Sir, Having just digested the information that eight out of every 10 pupils now attend comprehensive schools, the letter from the Bishop of Norwich (December 13) seems to prompt more serious speculation than the establishment of records.

Indeed it would appear that, in the matter of elevation to the episcopate, the Holy Spirit's continuing predilection for members of Monkton Combe School in particular, and public schools in general, is seriously open to question.

I have the honour to be, Sir your obedient servant,
PHILIP PALMER,
Glebe House,
Great Oakley,
Harwich,
Essex.

SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend a dinner to be given by the Commonwealth High Commissioners in the United Kingdom at Marlborough House today.

The Prince of Wales will attend a carol concert at the Albert Hall in aid of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children on Wednesday.

Birthdays today

Mr Eamonn Andrews, 55; Mr John Bowle, 72; Sir Charles Duke, 72; Viscount Head, 71; Professor T. H. Marshall, 84; Brigadier C. G. Martin, VC, 86; Sir Andrew Murray, 74; Sir William Murrie, 74; Professor L. P. Pugh, 82; Count Edward Raczynski, 86; the Right Rev Dr G. E. Reindorp, 66; Sir Ralph Richardson, 75.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. P. G. Alcock and Miss A. M. S. Ludlow
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Commander G. W. Alcock, OBE, RN (retd), and Mrs Alcock, of Deerhurst House, Bank, Lyndhurst, Hampshire, and Angela, daughter of Mr and Mrs E. J. Ludlow, of Sundridge Avenue, Bromley, Kent.

Captain T. D. Gregg and Miss T. L. E. Pritchard-Gordon
The engagement is announced between Captain Tresham Gregg, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, only son of Colonel and Mrs T. D. Gregg, of Bracken Hill, Sheriff Hutton, York, and Tessa, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs W. H. A. Pritchard-Gordon, of Burleigh Farm, Turners Hill, Sussex.

Mr N. A. Theyer and Miss C. M. H. Goble
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Mr and Mrs H. E. Theyer, of Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield, and Caroline, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. F. Goble, of Dovehouse Street, London, SW3.

Mr C. H. P. Trollope and Mrs J. E. Golding
The engagement is announced and a quiet marriage ceremony will take place shortly between Mr Peter Trollope and Mrs Jan Golding, both of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr R. J. C. Wilmot-Smith and Miss J. M. O. Castle
The engagement is announced between Richard, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J. P. Wilmot-Smith, of Wensley, North Yorkshire, and Jennifer, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. W. Castle, of Liphook, Hampshire.

Mr T. J. Wright and Miss D. J. Kverndal
The engagement is announced between Timothy, younger son of Mr and Mrs M. O. Wright, of The White House, High Trees Road, Reigate, Surrey, and Deborah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs O. S. Kverndal, of Larchwood, Beech Dell, Keston, Kent.

Luncheons

Master's Club
A luncheon of the Master's Club was held at St Stephen's Tavern on Friday to mark the ninety-fifth anniversary of the birth of Sir John Hobbs. The toast of the Master was proposed by Mr Andrew Sandham. Others present were:
Mr L. E. G. Ames, Mr J. Arlott, Mr J. Bridges, Mr E. B. Copp, Sir Alexander Durie, Mr C. S. Elliott, Mr A. R. Gover, Mr J. Hobbs, Mr D. Insole, Mr J. Marshall, Mr J. Mercer, Mr J. Parker, Mr I. Scott-Browne and Mr R. Subba Row.

Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors
The President and officers of the Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors gave a luncheon in the City Livery Club, Victoria Embankment, London, EC4, on Friday, December 16. Among those present were the Presidents of the Incorporated Society of Valuers, Guild of Surveyors, Construction Surveyors' Institute, Faculty of Surveyors and the Institute of Building; Sir Richard Thompson, Professor A. W. Pratt Mrs Noël Dawson and the Chairman of the Institute of Arbitrators.

Reception

Lionel Cohen Award
The Lionel Cohen Award for services to humanity was made to Lord Goodman at a reception held yesterday at the Belsize Square Synagogue. The award was inaugurated by the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues in 1968 in honour of its president, Lord Cohen, on his eightieth birthday. The award and scroll were presented to Lord Goodman, on behalf of the ULPS, by Mr Evelyn de Rothschild. Among others present were:
The Hon David and Mrs Astor, Dr and Mrs Basil Bard, the Hon Hugh and Mrs Cohen, Mr James, Mr Charles and Mr William Cohen, Mrs Evelyn de Rothschild, Lord and Lady Donaldson of Kingsbridge, Rabbi Dr and Mrs Leslie I. Edgar, Lord and Lady Fisher of Camden, Lady Karminski, Lord Kissin, Mr Harold Lever, MP, and Mrs Lever, Lord and Lady Lloyd of Hampstead, Mr E. Moonman, MP, Mr and Mrs G. Yardin and Professor and Mrs J. Yudkin.

Triumphant search into meaning of religion

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Both on television and in schools religion has the unique privilege of being unavoidable; it is the one subject that broadcasting companies are obliged to include in their schedules whatever else they choose to ignore, and the one subject that head teachers have to find a place for, whatever the pressures and temptations not to do so.

It is at first sight odd that this period of privilege has coincided with the postwar long retreat of the churches from their once central role in national life.

No longer supported by any general agreement in society on religious values, the schools and the broadcasting companies have had to shift the emphasis away from what the Education Act, 1944, called "religious instruction", seeking ways to handle religion with journalistic or educational objectivity.

In neither domain is there any longer an explicit commitment to be "for" Christianity or indeed "for" religion in general; it is now a subject like any other, and in fact more consciously so, as the shift has been both recent and deliberate.

The traditional approach was intentionally biased, and the lesson seems to be that bias is counterproductive in the long run. In both religious broadcasting and in religious education there are many people who feel that the decline in church influence, and even more significantly the decline in specifically Christian belief, may have been encouraged by the way religion was taught or broadcast.

In television the emphasis is now on neutrality, and the BBC's *Everyman* series has pioneered a style of objectivity that is about to be taken a stage *farther in London Weekend* Television's new *Credo* series. The keynote is an intelligent but detached interest in other people's beliefs, and the point of view of the commentator becomes irrelevant. It is an inevitable trend.

That is the context of the remarkable BBC television series, *The Long Search*, a 13-part expedition into the meaning of religion, which concluded last week with a resounding question mark. It reflected the contemporary *media fashion* by looking evenhandedly at all religions, but it broke with convention by *making a virtue of subjectivity*.

The series was as much about one man, the tolerantly agnostic "lapsed Methodist", Mr Ronald Eyre, as about the religions of the world. The BBC can safely regard it as a triumph and a breakthrough, the discovery of that rare thing, a new technique for making sense of an almost impossible subject.

The *great disadvantage* of objectivity in describing religion, which is now admitted by those in the media with experience of that approach, is that the closer you try to come to the central experience and depths, the harder it becomes. Objectivity carries you only so far. Mr Eyre allowed himself to be *a walking laboratory*, taking small injections of other people's faith into his bloodstream in order to be able to describe how it felt.

It could have been a dangerous experiment, the path to madness, but the final programme *and the final article in The Listener* proved that his sanity had survived, though he will never be quite the same again.

Professor Ninian Smart, consultant to the series, has published his thoughts on the subject in *Background to the Long Search* (BBC, £7.25), and in spite of its comprehensive competence it is anchored in the world of objectivity.

The gap between it and the regular run of articles Mr Eyre has written for *The Listener* is the gap between prose and poetry, almost between death and life. Mr Eyre's description of contrast is between curiosity and need; other people's long search is interesting, your own is desperate.

He admitted in the final programme that he felt poised between the two; unsure of his own good faith even in having volunteered for the experiment. But part of *The Long Search* has been a search for his own motives, and his standing in front of the cameras wrestling with his integrity became a central, though surely unintentional, part of the plot.

Expeditions such as his, around the world and into himself, have no ultimate earthly *destination*, *although* it is possible to discern an earthly direction; Mr Eyre and his team were not peddling answers.

To his apparent surprise he found that none of the religions that had anything attractive to say were peddling answers either. They were merely suggesting various methods of searching and places to look.

Although the subjectivity of *The Long Search*, the wholly personal interpretation of religion that it contained, had a superficial echo of the old days of religious broadcasting when lack of commitment was the obvious sin, the difference is dramatic and may explain the *failure of one* and the success of the other.

The premise behind the traditional approach, in broadcasting and also in religious education, was that Christianity was a set of answers, and as it happened, the "right" answers. The churches had solved the God problem, it seemed, and the only respectable response was "Amen".

The sense of mysticism, of grouping into the unknown, was *missing—though* that, in all probability, was what people wanted to hear.

One for the album: King Carl Gustaf of Sweden and Queen Silvia posing with their five-month-old daughter, Princess Victoria.

Marriages

The Hon P. R. Lawson Johnston and Miss S. M. Andrews
The marriage took place on Saturday at Holy Trinity, Brompton, between the Hon Philip Richard Lawson Johnston, youngest son of Lord and Lady Luke, of Odell Castle, Bedford, and Miss Saskia Moyne Andrews, eldest daughter of Mr T. G. Andrews and the late Mrs G. R. Andrews, and stepdaughter of Mrs T. G. Andrews, of The Old Rectory flat, Leckford, near Stockbridge, Hampshire. The Rev J. C. B. Collins, the Rev D. J. Payne, the Rev J. A. K. Millar and the Rev R. H. Turvey officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a gown of ivory raw silk and a train of Brussels lace lent by the mother of the bridegroom. She carried a bouquet of lilies-of-the-valley, roses and freesias. Percy, Justin and Rupert Lawson Johnston, Jessica Cordle, Tessa Harvey, Pandora Cooper-Key, Miss Tanya Andrews, Miss Melissa Bristow and Miss Melinda Dewar attended her. Mr Mark Brooke was best man.

A reception was held in the church hall and the honeymoon will be spent in Wales and Kenya.

Mr E. C. Macadam and Miss A. C. Binny
The marriage took place on Saturday at Little Wenham Church, Colchester, between Mr Corbett Macadam, younger son of the late Sir Ivison Macadam and of Lady Macadam, of Runton Old Hall, Cromer, Norfolk, and Miss Camilla Binny, daughter of Major and Mrs Trevor Binny, of Little Wenham Hall, Colchester. The Ven Charles Hooper officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Patrick Leatham, Lucy Wightwick, Iona Maclean and Kythe Mackenzie of Gairloch. Mr Richard Southby was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr M. C. C. Goolden and Miss S. Vickers
The marriage took place on Saturday in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, between Mr Michael Goolden, elder son of Mr and the Hon Mrs Douglas Goolden, of Wittyham, Hartfield, Sussex, and Miss Siegrith Vickers, younger twin daughter of Mr and Mrs Basil Vickers, of Skelmorlie, Ayrshire. The Rev G. Macmillan officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a cream silk gown in Edwardian style and carried a bouquet of cream roses. Mr Alastair Goolden was best man.

A reception was held at 11 Moray Place, Edinburgh, and the honeymoon will be spent in Scotland.

Mr W. H. Baker and Miss S. G. Mahaffy
The marriage took place on Friday, December 16, at St James's, Piccadilly, between Mr William Hugh Baker, elder son of Lieutenant-Commander and Mrs Hugh Baker, and Miss Sarah Georgiana Mahaffy, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Rupert Mahaffy. The Rev Kenneth Elphinstone officiated, assisted by the Rev William Baddeley.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Kate Mahaffy, Miss Rosemary Marsden and Miss Charlotte Wheatley. Mr Simon White was best man.

A reception was held at Buck's Club.

Mr D. D. de Carle and Miss J. M. Hopcraft
The marriage took place on Friday in London between Mr David de Carle and Miss Jancis Hopcraft.

Foujita works fetch high prices in US

By Geraldine Norman
Saleroom Correspondent

High prices paid for Foujita, the Japanese modern painter, provided the outstanding feature of Sotheby Parke Bernet's end-of-season sale of modern paintings, drawings and sculpture in New York on Friday. A Japanese private collector was bidding over the telephone from Japan.

He paid $22,000 (estimate $8,000 to $12,000) or £11,956, for a small, oil painting of a cat by Foujita, dated 1949, the top price of the sale. There were also two Foujita drawings, "Torso de femme", dating from about 1928, at $4,000 (estimate $2,500 to $3,000) or £2,174 and a watercolour "Portrait de femme" dated 1967 at $6,000 (estimate $2,000 to $3,000), or £3,261.

Two 1943 paintings by Joaquin Torres Garcia were an unusual feature. A Uruguyan constructivist painter, he lived in Europe and was involved closely with the European avant garde from 1891 to 1934. From 1934 to his death in 1949, he lived in Montevideo.

His two bright abstracts were sold at $8,000 (£4,348) each, but had been estimated at $12,000 to $15,000.

The sale totalled £218,329, with 39 out of 154 lots unsold.

Dinner

Johnian Society
The Archbishop of Canterbury presided at the annual dinner of the Johnian Society held in St John's College, Cambridge, on Saturday and proposed the toast of the college. The Master, Professor P. N. S. Mansergh, replied. Among those present were:
The Rev J. S. Boys Smith, Mr Justice Brightman, Mr F. W. Law, Sir Henry Nance, Sir Ronald Radford, Professor Sir Harold Sanders, Sir Robert Somerville and Mr K. A. Usherwood.

Parliamentary diary

House of Commons

[illegible]

on horsemeat trade with EEC. House adjourned, 7.56 pm.

Dec 15: Finance (Income Tax Reliefs) Bill read the third time and passed. Northern Ireland (Various Emergency Provisions) (Continuance) (No 2) Order, Rates (Northern Ireland) Order, Supplementary Benefits (Northern Ireland) Order, and Supplementary Benefits Etc. (Consequential Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order, Agricultural Wages (Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order all agreed to. Gun Barrel Proof Bill passed the committee stage. Consolidated Fund (No 2) Bill passed all its stages. Finance (Income Tax Reliefs) Act and Consolidated Fund (No 2) Act received Royal Assent. House adjourned, 12.23 pm for the Christmas recess.

House of Lords

[illegible]

Today's engagements

The Duke of Gloucester attends dinner given by Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, Guildhall, in aid of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal, 7.25.

Traditional carols, English Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Mr Edward Heath, Central Hall, Westminster, 7.

Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road: "After Alice", children's books of the past 100 years.

Antiquarian Book Fair, Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, 12—8.

Middle Temple

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Martin Gilliat, has been elected an Honourary Bencher of the Middle Temple.

Dartmouth passing out

Admiral Sir David Williams, Commander-in-Chief, Naval Home Command, will take the salute at the passing-out parade today when the following officers under training pass out from Britannia Royal Naval College:

General list (seamen): Sub-Lieutenants: P. Bennett, T. J. Clarke, E. Dewhirst, N. J. Ford, C. A. Hughes, J. I. Humphreys, I. M. Jefferis, R. A. [illegible]

[illegible]

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy

VICE-ADMIRAL: S. F. Berthon, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Operational Requirements) in March, 78.

CAPTAINS: A. P. Comrie, to be promoted Rear Admiral on Jan 7, 78, and to be Deputy Controller Aircraft B in the Procurement Executive MOD; D. W. Beadle, Centurion in Cmd (to serve in rank of Commodore), May 2, 78; D. J. Halifax, for duty with FOAIB, Feb 28, 78; J. P. Edwards, MOD with DG Ships, Jan 17, 78; J. C. Watson, MOD with DG Ships, Jan 17, 78; W. S. Gueterbock, NA Paris, Jan 30, 78; D. H. Morse, Intrepid in Cmd, Jan 5, 78; R. G. B. [illegible], for duty with FOAIB, Jan 12, 78; A. A. Lockyer, MOD with Nav Sec. as DNOA(E), May 5, 78; R. S. Falconer, Retd List, Jan 7, 78; O. P. Sutton, Retd List, Jan 7, 78; H. J. Abraham, Retd List, Jan 7, 78; P. D. Nichol, Retd List, Jan 7, 78; J. L. N. Ummanney, Retd List, Jan 7, 78.

COMMANDERS: M. Cribb, Glamorgan as Snr Offr, May 26, 78; A. F. [illegible], 3 yrs exch service with the RNZN with the Chief of Naval Staff Wellington New Zealand, April 18, 78; R. T. Newman, Naiad in Cmd, Dec 29; J. B. Gallagher, MOD with DNOR, July 31, 78; K. R. Mills, Retd List, Feb 21, 78; L. W. Binnington, Retd List, Feb 25, 78.

SURGEON COMMANDERS: M. A. Macleod, RNH Haslar, Dec 15; M. R. Smith, RNH Plymouth, May 3, 78; H. B. Blackstone Dartmouth as PMO, Feb 27, 78.

WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE: CHIEF OFFICER: Miss O. V. Thomas, Centurion, Jan 20, 78.

ROYAL MARINES: LIEUTENANT-COLONEL: J. C. Weston, Retd List, April 11, 78.

The Army

BRIGADIERS: Col J. D. W. Goodman to be Comdt RSA, Dec 22; Col C. P. R. Palmer to be Dep Comd, 1 Armd Div and Comd Soltau Garrison, Dec 20; B. A. M. Pielow appd DA Paris, Dec 10.

COLONELS: D. H. Braggins to be Col AQ, HQ Cdo Forces RM, Dec 21; Lt-Col L. M. Halfpenny, RA, to be CI, RSA, Dec 21; N. B. Knocker, Queens, appd DA Muscat Dec 11; R. L. Wallis to be Col Mov, HQ UKLF, Dec 23.

LIEUTENANT-COLONELS: D. J. Budd, RA, to be GSO1, 20 Liaison HQ (Belgian Forces), Dec 25; D. T. [illegible]

Royal Air Force

[illegible]

OBITUARY

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR RALPH COCHRANE

Major role in wartime bomber offensive

Air Chief Marshal The Hon Sir Ralph Cochrane, GBE, KCB, AFC FRAeS, who organized the operation for breaching the Möhne and Eder dams in 1943, died on December 17 at the age of 82.

Ralph Alexander Cochrane was the youngest son of the first Lord Cochrane of Cults and was born on February 24, 1895. He followed a strong family tradition by beginning his career in the Royal Navy, but the air attracted him from the start. Two days after his entry into the Royal Navy he was appointed a Flight Sub-Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Air Service and from then onwards aviation dominated his career. He came to the service through the Royal Naval Colleges, Osborne and Dartmouth, from which he passed out early in 1915.

He was concerned with both airships as well as aircraft during the First World War. For twelve months he flew as a trial pilot at Kingsnorth, but he had graduated as an airship pilot at Cranwell in 1917 and when the Royal Air Force was formed he became a Captain "Dirigibles", later being graded Major "Airship" while engaged on such duties. Before the war ceased he had been posted to the Admiralty Airship Department and he was still concerned with this form of aviation when he was appointed to a permanent commission in the RAF in August, 1919. He was awarded the AFC in January, 1919.

At Pulham, the home of so much of the story of airships in this country, he spent eighteen months before going to the Air Ministry for a short period in 1920 on attachment to the Directorate of Research and it was in connexion with the study of deterioration of airship fabric that he first went out to the Middle East Command later that year. This was a short assignment and he was then posted to No 70 Squadron for a year for experimental duties.

At the Middle East Command's Flying Training School he served as a flying instructor for six months in 1921 but the next year was back on flying duties with No 45 Squadron. During his three years tour in the Middle East, he collected a variety of experience and became well acquainted with Egypt, Iraq and Palestine. He was mentioned in despatches for operations in Kurdistan in 1924. His second tour in the Middle East in 1928 and 1929 gave him additional experience; in air staff duties at the Aden headquarters and in his first command, No 8 Squadron, whose principal duty was to carry the law into the unruly tribal areas of the Protectorate. In between these tours in the Middle East, he gained further experience in three important directions — administrative duties in the Boys' Wing at Cranwell; a staff course at the RAF Staff College, 1925-26; and air staff duties at Headquarters No 7 Group and; on its disbandment, with Wessex Bombing Area.

He had been promoted a squadron leader while at the Staff College and he went back as an instructor in November, 1929, on his return from Aden. A necessary element to a well-balanced career was added two years later by an Air Ministry appointment on air staff duties in the Directorate of Operations and Intelligence, followed by the higher commanders' course at the School of Army Cooperation in 1934 and a course at the Imperial Defence College the following year. Air Staff duties at Inland Area and Training Command headquarters came afterwards and in 1936 he was selected for special duties with the Government of New Zealand. During this detachment he was made a CBE. It was not until the summer of 1939 that he returned to this country to take up the post of Deputy Director of Intelligence. While in New Zealand he had been promoted to the rank of group captain and for the early part of the war he held the appointment of Air ADC to the King.

It was not long, however, before he began the first of his two war-time periods with Bomber Command. In December, 1939, he was given command of the RAF station at Abingdon, and the following year he was successively Senior Air Staff Officer, No 6 Group and AOC No 7 Group. But in spite of the opportunities these Bomber Command appointments gave him for deploying his talents, even more important work called him back to the Air Ministry in October, 1940.

In the Battle of Britain flying training had been shown to be one of the greatest assets of Fighter Command in its gruelling struggle with the Luftwaffe and it was now essential to multiply that asset so that not only should Britain be held secure but should be able to strike back. With his gifts for organization, drive and efficiency, Cochrane found in his new post of Director of Flying Training great scope for a strenuous application of these qualities. Until September, 1942, he worked under the Air Member for Training to ensure that that great conception, the Commonwealth Air Training Plan, should give to the RAF the superb contribution in skill and courage which, while Britain stood alone, was the earnest of her intention to achieve ultimate victory.

He returned to the expanding Bomber Command, as an Air Vice-Marshal, in September, 1942, in command of No 3 Group but it was as AOC of No 5 Group, which he took over in February, 1943, that he had his greatest opportunities as a war-time operational commander. No 5 Group had many of the most spectacular special missions of the bomber offensive put upon it and in its AOC it found a leader of proved efficiency and inspiring determination. The Group's greatest achievement, still unique in air warfare, was the breaching of the Möhne and Eder dams in October, 1943. To Cochrane was given the task of raising a squadron, No 617, and ensuring that this amazing operation for which Wing Commander Guy Gibson was awarded the VC, was efficiently planned and executed. Before he left the Group he had been promoted KBE in January, 1945 and had seen his squadrons build a great tradition for gallantry and achievement.

When he was appointed AOC-in-C Transport Command, in February, 1945, the shift of the Allies' Concentration from Europe to the Far East theatre, involving a vast air-trooping programme, was the main immediate commitment. But as the prison cages of Europe gave up their scattered population, the RAF was asked to assist in repatriating these tens of thousands of prisoners-of-war, and Transport Command rapidly took on the major share of this vast migration. During 1945 and 1946 Transport Command had a huge programme to fulfil. In a period of 21 months ending September, 1946, the transport services of the RAF completed more passenger miles than had British civil aviation in the preceding 21 years and carried some 300,000 troops and 200,000 tons of equipment. To tackle this, Transport Command had to absorb some 3,000 pilots into its organization during 1945, the majority direct from training units. This vast and complex problem called for the exercise of wide experience, foresight and organizing ability in the Commander-in-Chief. Few in the Air Force would deny that the right man was found for the position.

Transport Command's work had dwindled considerably by the time Cochrane left his headquarters at Bushy Park in September, 1947, and his next appointment took him to the then most active branch of the RAF, Flying Training Command. As AOC-in-C he saw his service struggle through the post-war recession and in the flying training units, at Cranwell, and in the Empire Schools, he was able to help in shaping the General Duties Branch of the future.

In 1949 he was the organizer of the Chief of the Air Staff's Conference, "Ariel" at which 200 representatives from civil life discussed with senior officers of the Royal Air Force and the Air Ministry the problem of meeting the need of the RAF for an adequate share of the nation's skilled manpower.

In 1950 Cochrane was promoted Air Chief Marshal and took up his final appointment, Vice Chief of the Air Staff, a newly created post in which he was concerned with questions affecting the strength and efficiency of the RAF in the climate of increasing commitment by British forces to the country's new alliances. He retired from the RAF in 1952.

Thereafter he held a number of posts in industry. He was Joint Managing Director Atlantic Shipbuilding Co. 1953-56; and of Rolls-Royce Ltd, 1956-61. He was chairman of RJM Exports Ltd and of Cochrane's of Oxford Ltd. He had won the Edward Busk Memorial Prize of the Royal Aeronautical Society in 1948 and gained the Institute of Transport Triennial Award of Merit in 1958.

Sir Ralph was made a CB in 1943 and promoted KCB in 1948. He was advanced to GBE in 1950. He married in 1930, Hilda Frances Holme Wiggin. They had two sons and one daughter.

Part of a portrait of the late Sir Andrew Humphrey, Marshal of the Royal Air Force and Chief of the Defence Staff, painted by Mara McGregor, which is to be unveiled in the dining room of the RAF College, Cranwell, today.

MR CYRIL RITCHARD

Mr Cyril Ritchard, the Australian-born actor, who died yesterday in Chicago aged 79, was once described as a player of "resolute, undefeatable glitter." He was then in a London revue; the phrase would have been reasonable at any time during a career that covered musical comedy, pantomime, revue, and operetta, Restoration comedy, Shaw, and —in Ritchard's seventieth year —Shakespeare.

Always good-tempered, a lanky, smiling figure and an accomplished dancer, he was in partnership for years with his wife Madge Elliott, also an Australian, who died in 1955. Born in December 1897 and formerly a medical student in Sydney, he found himself, just after his twentieth birthday, in the chorus of *A Waltz Dream*; thenceforth he had seven years with the Williamson management in the kind of frivolous parts (*Kissing Time*; *The Cabaret Girl*) he acted with cheerful ease.

He reached London in 1925, apeared in sundry revues, and at length in Lupino-Laddie Cliff musicals where (Madge Elliott as the heroine) he was usually a hero called Tommy or Peter or Jack, with plenty of scope for dancing, graceful and muscular. Nothing much extended him as an actor. He had four Australian years, in musicals, but when he came back to London he began gradually to explore the legitimate stage. This was soon interrupted by his period at the Little Theatre (1938-39) in two Farjeon revues that were the best of their generation, particularly the first (*Nine Sharp*). Ritchard is remembered, too, from the "non-stop" shows (1.15 to 6) at the Little early in the war.

At the Piccadilly (August, 1945) he used his comic intensity in the Coward revue, *Sigh No More*; he had a one-man conversation-piece as an Indian Army officer for whom life was a bristle of question-marks. Criticism at this time described him as a genial basilisk and a bouncing panther. On returning to London after eighteen months in Australia and New York, it was as Lord Foppington in Vanbrugh's *The Relapse*:

Thereafter his life would be even more versatile. In London he had only four further parts: trembling on the edge of parody, but not falling over, as Hubert in a version of *Ann Veronica* (Piccadilly, 1949)

He did not act again in England, spending nearly all of his time in America and becoming progressively known as a director: at the Metropolitan Opera House he staged *The Barber of Seville*, *La Perichole*, *The Gypsy Baron*, and *The Marriage of Figaro*. In a fantastically busy career he glittered still as an actor, doubling Hook and Darling in *Peter Pan* (New York, 1954) and receiving two awards and playing nearly 500 New York performances in the glossy comedy, *The Pleasure of His Company* (1958-59).

A final assemblage of parts would take in the Colonel in Shaw's *Too True To Be Good*, and at Stratford, Connecticut (1967), Bottom and Oberon in his own production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Ritchard appeared in films; but he was primarily a stage actor of redoubtable technique. He represented the true glitter of the professional theatre.

Latest wills

Miss Joan Ula Kilsby, of Norwood, London, left £43,020 net. After personal bequests she left the residue to the Fellowship of the School of Economic Science, London.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid; tax not disclosed):

Ellice-Clark, Mr Stuart Tulk, of Bickley, Kent £369,412

Cocks, Mr Charles Vernon Somers, of Moretonhampstead, Devon £175,088

Curtis, Miss Amy, of Dunscroft, South Yorkshire £136,959

Davies, Mr Thomas Evan, of Castle Caereinion, Welshpool, Powys, intestate £117,044

Fane, Mr Peter Gerard Scrope, of Saxmundham, Suffolk .. £290,688

King, Mr Desmond Carew, of Stroud, Gloucestershire £171,947

£50,000 winner

The weekly £50,000 Premium Savings Bond prize, announced on Saturday, was won by 4WB 122466. The winner lives in Essex.

The 25 £1,000 winners are:

3 AF 484283	3 VN 407266
5 BP 792253	9 VP 658019
7 BS 760936	10 VB 305228
8 EZ 259153	14 VB 379360
1 JK 243489	[illegible]
6 KN 145624	10 WB 230867
6 KZ 500247	12 WT 523843
6 MT 015410	14 WB 851545
11 PS 380178	1 XK 038616
8 RS 033868	10 XP 623794
7 SK 024895	12 YS 748791
6 TP 375345	4 ZP 066744
	18 ZT 452331

25 years ago

From The Times of Thursday, Dec 18, 1952

Lord Nuffield retires

Lord Nuffield, the chairman of British Motor Corporation Limited and of Morris Motors Limited and its associated companies, announced yesterday his decision to resign from the boards of these companies. His announcement took the form of a statement made at the end of the first annual general meeting of the British Motor Corporation at Oxford. Lord Nuffield said that he was 75 last October and had been at the helm for nearly 60 years. His successor would be Mr Leonard Lord. Lord Nuffield's retirement from active business at the age of 75 marks the end of a business career which began in 1892 when he opened a bicycle repair shop in the garden of his mother's house at Cowley, near Oxford. Mr W. R. Morris, as he then was, graduated from bicycles and motor-bicycles to motor-car production in 1912 when he assembled by hand his first motor-car in the old grammar school building at Cowley, where his father had been educated and where his own office was still situated many years later. After the War of 1914-1918 Morris Motors quickly became the leading firm in the British motor industry, and as early as 1925 it created a European record by making 50,000 cars in a year.

هكذا في الاصل

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

Opec set for bitter bargaining on prices this week in Venezuela

From Roger Vielvoye
Energy Correspondent
Caracas, Dec 18

With ministers now arriving at their seaside hotel for the fiftieth ministerial meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), there is still no word of the hoped-for compromise over oil prices.

All the signs point to some long and bitter bargaining sessions over the cost of crude oil throughout the world next year, with the balance of power held by the group of countries, led by Saudi Arabia, favouring an extension of the price freeze.

Dr Valentin Hernandez, the Venezuelan oil minister, back home after his flight to Europe in an effort to produce a pre-conference compromise on prices, admits he has been unsuccessful, and the conference will open on Tuesday with a wide gulf between the moderates and the small group led by Iraq that wants substantial price rises.

The Saudi group, which includes Iran, Abu Dhabi, Qatar and possibly Kuwait, together have about four million barrels a day of spare production capacity, giving them the negotiating muscle to force through their demand for a freeze on prices.

After last December's price-fixing meeting in Qatar, where the lack of any agreement before the conference led to a public split in the organization and the start of six months of two-tiered pricing, Venezuela had set great store on defusing the price issue before the conference began.

Dr Hernandez has made several trips around the Middle East, and at one time it looked likely that this groundwork would produce concessions from both sides and lead to a small increase—5 per cent or below.

On his last mission to London, Dr Hernandez spoke to several of his Opec ministerial colleagues on the telephone, but was unable to get any of them to change their positions. No one was keen to postpone the meeting and leave a fight over prices until next year.

The Venezuelan minister will continue his peace-making role throughout the conference, even though his country holds the middle ground over prices, favouring a moderate rise. However, these financial objectives may be submerged by efforts to prevent the conference failing to reach a unanimous decision on prices.

For Venezuela, a smooth Opec conference without the serious differences of opinion over prices bubbling to the surface, is important. The country is just beginning the run-up to a presidential election at the end of next year, and its role within Opec could become an issue—albeit a small one.

Opec observers are trying to assess the significance of Iraq's absence at ministerial level. Mr Tayeh Abdul Karim, the Iraqi oil minister, is one of the leading advocates for higher prices, but is suffering from a back complaint that, according to the Iraqis, makes it impossible for him to travel long distances by plane.

His place at the conference table will be taken by Mr Abdul Amir al Ansari, the minister's chief adviser. He will be able to take part in any debates, but can only give provisional approval to any agreement reached by the conference. The Iraqi government then gets a week to confirm his action.

City plea for relaxation of exchange controls

By Ronald Pullen
Banking Correspondent

Steps should be taken to liberalize the operating environment for the international banking industry in London, according to the written evidence of the British Bankers' Association to the Wilson Committee on the functioning of financial institutions.

In particular the association would welcome a relaxation of exchange controls on direct and portfolio investment, which Sir Harold Wilson himself hinted he would not be averse to seeing when his "progress report" was published last week.

This should include removal of the ban on financing third country's trade in sterling; abolition of the investment currency pool (or at least the 25 per cent surrender rule), and allowing companies to hold foreign currencies for longer periods.

The BBA also highlights the level of United Kingdom corporation tax as a major reason for the loss of business to branches in other financial centres.

Action is called for to put the banks on a more equal footing with manufacturing industry by deferring tax on profits necessary to maintain their real capital; making an allowance against tax for depreciation of bank premises and not charging tax on gains arising when foreign currency assets are financed by subordinated loan stock denominated in foreign currencies. This is already a bone of contention between the Inland Revenue and some consortium banks.

To encourage London's development as a centre for the management of international investment portfolios, the BBA suggests that some of the obstacles inhibiting this should be removed. These include relaxing rules on the definition of resident status, exempting non-residents from capital transfer tax and allowing authorized banks to certify their customers as non-resident.

More generally, the association calls on the authorities to prevent further undermining of confidence in London as a financial centre, as has happened to some extent by the decline in sterling, threats of bank nationalization and Labour Party suggestions that the state should direct the investment of bank deposits.

The BBA is also concerned that the hitherto favourable operating environment for the banks could be affected by such factors as the soaring rates burden—now estimated to be £50m or one-third of the City of London's total rate income—or any worsening of the telephone and telecommunications service.

Ministers meet today in search of common policy on industry's plight

EEC holds talks to avert steel chaos

By Maurice Corina, Industrial Editor

Vital talks to avert the world steel industry's slide into chaos and retaliatory protectionist measures get under way today when the European Community's Council of Foreign Ministers meets to thrash out a common policy.

Deep devisions are already emerging within Europe over the merits of operating a basic price reference system to control flows of imported steels. Viscount Etienne Davignon, the Community's Commissioner for Industrial Policy, is known to favour the negotiation of special agreements on steel supplies rather than fixing import prices.

Meanwhile, the United States has been working hard on framing scales of "trigger" prices for imported steels, including those from European sources. These will be minimum levels for selected products which, if breached, will invite rapid anti-dumping action.

Britain, France and Belgium, appear ready to line up with the United States if an orderly method of determining reference prices can be established without severely disrupting normal patterns of trading.

West Germany is more cautious. Herr Dieter Spethmann, chairman of steelmakers Thyssen, is worried that reference prices will breach the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

France appears ready to bring in unilaterally an import licensing system, based on certificates of origin, if the Community does not work out a more satisfactory answer to disruptive competition.

Britain has recently called for a review of Gatt controls over import restrictions. The new letter to the International Monetary Fund spoke of temporary actions in support of industries suffering disruption. In Whitehall, there is some support for a mixed programme of increasing minimum prices for steel on an internationally agreed basis with the provision of quotas for selected products to ensure more economic domestic production.

Viscount Davignon will put the Commission's own ideas, after some months of worldwide consultations, to today's council. However, it seems he wants to try to negotiate special agreements between Europe and non-European suppliers, falling back on reference price controls if such talks fail.

There are rumours that France or Britain may come forward with some new initiative to avert bitter argument between partners, particularly with West Germany and Italy, on protecting Europe's steel manufacturers.

World steel crisis, page 7
Looking for loopholes, page 16

Mullard gets pledge of TV tube orders

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Increased orders for colour television tubes have been promised by a number of British television set manufacturers to Mullard, the Philips subsidiary, which is Britain's sole remaining colour tube manufacturer.

It should go a considerable way to ensuring a return to profitability at Mullard within two years at most, Mr Jack Akerman, the company's managing director, said yesterday.

The promises have come while consultations are still going on about a plan by the Radio Industry Council, representing the set makers, to boost the domestic industry's use of Mullard tubes. The council unveiled the plan during its opposition to the opening of an assembly factory in the United Kingdom by Hitachi, the Japanese electronics group.

Mr Akerman said: "It is partly a result of our sales efforts. But the RIC initiative should make things a lot easier. I expect support to come from other setmakers in this country."

Mullard production is now running at more than 1.1 million tubes a year, but a production level of 1.5 million is needed for its two British factories to be profitable. The RIC plan, when fully implemented, aims at achieving this, with British setmakers taking more Mullard tubes at the expense of present ordering from foreign sources, particularly the Pacific basin and the United States.

A limited production run for 90 degree in-line tubes of 20-inch screen size will begin in April at Mullard's Simonstone factory in Lancashire. Mullard's main production thrust is in 110 degree tubes which are more compact.

Engineering employers to contest basis and timing of union's claim

Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

A big new claim on behalf of 1,200,000 engineering workers that will test the flexibility of Government pay guidelines is being put to the Engineering Employers Federation today. It seeks an increase in wages, longer holidays and a 35-hour working week in Britain's key exporting industries.

Leaders of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions are pressing for minimum time rate—the basic calculator for pay—to rise from its present level of £42 a week to £70, with a comparable increase for the labourer's rate from £35 to £55.

They will argue that since the industry has been without a realistic national agreement for two years, the claim is outside the TUC's 12-month rule. And because only a tiny minority of engineering workers, particularly craftsmen, actually earn the minimum, the *whole deal could be agreed* within the Government's 10 per cent ceiling.

But the employers will counter with a proposal that the industry should not have a new agreement until August 1, when every phase two deal negotiated in the factories under the industry's two-tier system of pay bargaining has ended. And even then, EEF negotiators argue, the new deal ought to be phased in.

Negotiations will be watched carefully by other industries because a total of two million workers, inside and outside firms belonging to the EEF, are covered by the national engineering agreement and any breach of the pay policy in this large sector of private industry would have serious consequences for the pay guidelines.

Apart from higher minimum rates and a shorter working week, the confederation is asking for an extra week's holiday, bringing the total to five weeks, and four more occasional days off to make 12 a year.

The employers are expected to make some moves on holidays but they will fiercely resist the shorter working week proposal on cost and employment grounds.

Every one-hour reduction puts 4 per cent on the pay bill, it is estimated, and a reduction in hours for craftsmen would lead to fewer, not more jobs for labourers and the semi-skilled—contrary to what the unions believe.

Little headway on detailed bargaining is expected today. This is the first of what will inevitably be a long series of confidential talks between top EEF negotiators and union leaders under a new system of bargaining instituted two years ago "to speed up the negotiating process by injecting greater realism and flexibility" into pay talks.

The union side is likely to press for an agreement operating from early 1978, and the engineering workers' leaders are charged with recalling their union's policymaking body to decide on a campaign in support of the demands should these be rejected.

However, the employers are counting on the unions giving priority to negotiating the new agreement after a two year vacuum rather than pushing hard for higher rates that might cause the Government political embarrassment in the long run-up to a General Election.

Militants in the unions are keen to see average earnings, for craftsmen now £65.64 for a 40-hour week, more accurately reflected in the industry's basic rate so that other elements in the wage packet, like shift premiums and holiday pay are substantially improved.

Short list lengthening for Burns successor

A leading article in the *Los Angeles Times* last week called on President Carter to replace Dr Arthur Burns as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board when his contract expires on January 31.

So who wants to be the next chairman of the Fed? The answer is a lot of people, including Dr Burns, who at 73 is still fighting fit.

Few questions today are as frequently discussed as this one when businessmen and financiers meet and the choice the President makes will be of immense interest abroad.

Needless to say the rumour mill is working hard and the list of possible successors to Dr Burns gets longer and longer.

The least probable candidates, despite their substantial following, are those seen as liberals likely to push the Fed on to a much more expansionary monetary course.

Names mentioned here include: Congressman Henry Reuss, the chairman of the House Banking Committee; Dr Alice Rivlin, Director of the Congressional Budget Office; Dr Andrew Brimmer, now an economic consultant and the first black American ever to have been a Fed Governor; and Dr Walter Heller, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Kennedy.

The list of so-called moderates is long and substantial. Among them are: Mr Paul Volcker, president of the New York Fed and former Under-Secretary of the Treasury; Dr Alan Okun of the Brookings Institution, who was head of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Johnson; Mr Robert Roosa, the New York investment banker who was Under-Secretary of the Treasury for Monetary Affairs for much of the 1960s; Mr A. W. Clausen, President of the Bank of America; Dr Gabriel Hauge, chairman of Manufacturers Hanover Trust and one of President Eisenhower's chief economists.

Others seen to have a good chance are: Mr Irving Shapiro, chairman of E. I. Dupont and head of the Business Round-Table; Mr Bruce McLaury, president of Brookings and former head of the Minneapolis Fed; Dr Henry Wallich, the most liberal member of the Fed's Board of Governors; and Dr Lawrence Klein, professor of economics at the University of Pennsylvania, who, like Mr Roosa, Mr Clausen and Mr Shapiro, was an adviser to Mr Carter in the 1976 election campaign.

The lobbying now being seen to keep Dr Burns in office is as fierce as that aimed at his replacement. President Carter may surprise everyone by striving for a compromise.

He might just decide to offer Dr Burns a short contract that expires on his 75th birthday in April, 1979

However, it is known that almost all of the President's top economic advisers in the White House are urging the President to suggest to Dr Burns that it might be a good idea if he quietly slipped away to his Vermont retreat and wrote his memoirs.

Frank Vogl

UK may offer cheaper credit to Soviet Union

By Christopher Wilkins

Interest rates charged on British export credits to the Soviet Union may soon be reduced as a result of a decision by the French and Italian Governments to offer cheaper credit.

Interest rates payable by the Soviet Union for British export credits were only increased last summer in line with the agreement between OECD countries which was designed to end cut-throat competition, leading to ever larger subsidies on export deals, between the leading trading countries.

The French export credit agency, Coface, has been trying to tie up a deal with the Soviet Union under which interest rates would be pegged below the new agreed levels in return for a Russian commitment to orders totalling some $700m (about £389m) or more.

This has not proved acceptable to the Soviet Union, but even so Coface has agreed to extend its previous low rates of interest for another year and the Italian export credit agency has decided to do likewise.

As long as the rates offered by Britain's Export Credits Guarantee Department remain at present levels, the lower terms offered by France and Italy could be sufficient to attract marginal orders from the Soviet Union. Bankers believe that this will force ECGD to cut its rates soon. A spokesman for ECGD admitted that it is looking closely at this issue.

Under the scheme operating since the end of July, Britain has been charging 7¼ per cent for two to five year financing under the dollar scheme (8¼ per cent for sterling deals of under £25m), while Coface is now charging 7.2 per cent for very big projects and 7.5 per cent for smaller deals.

John Huxley writes: The overseas competitiveness of British construction companies, which last year won contracts abroad worth £1,700m, is expected to be improved by a new scheme of risk cover introduced by the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

Under the scheme, introduced on an experimental basis for three years, the ECGD will cover some of the risks arising from the "joint and several" responsibilities to which companies and consortia are frequently exposed when tendering for "jumbo" overseas contracts. The facility is available on projects worth more than £50m

It has been felt that in the past British companies have failed to win orders for large multi-disciplinary contracts partly because they either feared the consequences of joint and several liability, or submitted tenders inflated by margins to cover the risk.

Skilled labour shortage in home counties

Further evidence that a shortage of skilled labour is hampering industrial output appears in the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry's latest survey of manufacturing in the home counties.

The single major restriction on output is still regarded as lack of demand, but more than a fifth of the companies replying to the survey said that the shortage of suitable labour is now a serious restraint on industrial expansion.

About 25 per vent of companies questioned wished to increase their number of skilled workers and the survey says "many report that this type of labour is impossible to find".

Numerous reasons have been suggested for this shortage, but "a general picture does emerge of the skilled worker being attracted to jobs in the public service, which as well as offering attractive wages has in many cases a sizable fringe benefit package".

Printing groups censured over recruitment figures

By Edward Townsend

Britain's printing companies have been censured by Mr Olav Arnold, president of the Printing Industries Federation, for taking on only 1,300 apprentices this year out of a full quota of 3,000.

Reluctance to employ more trainees was "shortsighted" and wah having an effect on the viability of printing colleges, "some of which may disappear as a result".

Writing in the latest issue of the federation's journal, Mr Arnold said the industry seemed to be pinning its hopes on improved productivity and new technology to provide the output in the future. "I hope we are right and that we do achieve this greater productivity," he said.

In discussions with the TUC Printing Industries Committee, the federation has been examining the export/import balance and will be studying productivity in the European context, "*for undoubtedly our value* added per employee is lower than that of our continental competitors".

There was not a great deal the federation could do to improve productivity except to get rid of any national restrictions, said Mr Arnold. Most of the work needed to be done at plant level and "genuine" productivity deals might help.

The industry was more optimistic than a year ago. In some sectors there was more work about as industrial and consumer spending recovered "and larger order books give the opportunity for better profits on which the future of our industry depends".

According to the latest industrial trends survey of the Confederation of British Industry, 62 per cent of printing and publishing companies were working below capacity in October. Nineteenth per cent had less than one month's work in hand compared with 11 per cent in July.

CBI survey reveals little buoyancy in orders trend

By Malcolm Brown

Manufacturing industry's order books are still weak, especially among the producers of intermediate goods, according to the Confederation of British Industry's latest monthly trends enquiry, details of which were published yesterday.

The confederation says export order trends are also weak and that on balance respondents still regard stocks of finished goods as being fully adequate for present needs. But looking at the next four months the CBI sees some expectation of an improvement in output trends.

In detail, the trends inquiry shows that 15 per cent of companies approached thought that in volume terms their total order book was better than normal, while 38 per cent replied that it was below the norm.

The same question applied to exporting showed that 18 per cent believed their order books were above normal and 35 per cent felt they were below. Some 36 per cent of those questioned could foresee an upward trend in the volume of output over the next four months, while only 12 per cent thought otherwise.

On prices, 50 per cent of the companies replying believed that the average prices at which domestic orders were booked would continue to go up; only 4 per cent thought prices would fall.

Luton-Brussels air taxi plan

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

In an application before the Civil Aviation Authority on Wednesday, Cabair, an air taxi company, backed by Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce, is applying for permission to operate a charter service each weekday for businessmen between Luton airport and Brussels.

It will be the first application of its kind to the licensing authority, and the outcome will be nated by airlines, Britains' 1,000 Chamber of Commerce and businessmen generally.

Objectors include British Airways, British Caledonian Airways, British Midland Airways and Air Anglia, which believe the service will take trade away from their normal scheduled routes.

Brokers suggest lower ceiling on money supply

By Our Financial Staff

Because inflation is subsiding, there is a strong argument for reducing the upper limit of the Government's target range for money supply growth, according to brokers W. Greenwell in their latest Monetary Bulletin.

It was particularly important that the Bank of England had raised its minimum lending rate to 7 per cent in November to slow down a rate of growth in the money supply that was not only running in excess of the existing ceiling but also being distorted downwards

In particular, the brokers cite the way in which the interest rate structure was stimulating the investment of large sums of money into the building societies and certificates of tax deposits.

In the case of investment in building societies, the brokers give warning that there is generally a lag of about six months between the money being placed with a building society and being on-lent. In the intervening period the funds are generally invested in public sector debt. Once they are on-lent, there is a rebound in M3.

The brokers also suggest that the Bank of England should refine their dealings in the money markets, and consider further experiements with determining the day-by-day prices at which they are prepared to deal in Treasury bills with the objective of inducing small changes in interest rates to correct deviations in the money supply.

High level of savings maintained

Inflow into National Savings *remained* at a high level in the four weeks to November 26, the net amount of new money invested totalling £121.4m, almost five times the level recorded in November, 1976.

The figure is encouraging since it comes within the traditional pre-Christmas spending period. But November retail sales figures suggested that Christmas shopping had moved off to a fairly slow start this year, with many people first waiting for income tax rebates.

Many shops have subsequently reported that sales have picked up strongly from the last week of November.

Main contributors to the latest savings increase have once again been sales of savings certificates (£32.9m) and new investment in National Savings bank investment accounts (£32.3m).

Taking account of accrued interest, the total remaining invested in National Savings over the period came to £172.9m, raising the total outstanding to £14,555m.

In brief

$500m revolving credit for New Zealand

Lloyds Bank Internation, in association with the National Bank of New Zealand, has arranged a United States $500m (about £278m) seven-year revolving credit facility for New Zealand. It is being provided by a syndicate of 52 banks, and is an extension of a $400m five-year multi-currency revolving credit negotiated in 1974.

Polish export target cut

Poland has cut its export growth target for next year to 9.9 per cent and increased its import target to 4.2 per cent from projections made less than a month ago, Mr Jozef Pinkowski, Central Committee Secretary, told parliament. Poland aims to reduce its trade deficit to zero by the end of the decade.

160 jobs to go in plastics closure

Marlaheath Plastics, the Stroud-based plastic sheet and profile products manufacturer, is to close down. About 160 employees will lose their jobs, Mr Martin Spencer, the receiver and manager, said yesterday.

Trading will cease on December 22. The unions involved recognized that there was no alternative. No acceptable offer had been received for the whole business, Mr Spencer said, but he was studying offers for particular items of plant and equipment.

Underspending worries Treasury

Continued from page 1

more restrictive than was envisaged earlier in the year, even after allowing for the October 26 measures.

Moreover, many of the contractionary influences on the public sector borrowing requirements this year were likely to persist in the next financial year, beginning in April, the Bulletin added.

It was partly in an attempt to offset these contractionary influences, that the Chancellor announced increases last October of about £1,000m in spending programmes for next year.

This had the affect of raising the projected Treasury deficit for 1978-79 from £6,000m to £7,000m. However, there is a view in some quarters that in spite of Mr Healey's measures, next year's public sector borrowing requirement could still be somewhat *less than* expected.

Even the Treasury's own official forecasts envisage a fall in the volume of total public expenditure on goods and services between the second half of 1977 and the first half of 1978, followed by a small rise only in the last six months of next year.

This rise is mostly the result of higher spending by government departments and local authorities on current consumption. Their investment spending, by contrast, is expected to go on declining.

On other pages

Lending rate 7 pc

The Bank of England's minimum lending rate is unchanged at 7 per cent. The following are the results of Friday's Treasury Bill Tender:

Applications	£1,057m	Allotted	£450m
Bids at	£98.54%	Received	21%
Prev week	£98.41%	Received	49%
Average rate	5.9588%	Prev week	6.3384%
Next Friday	£350m	Replace	£400m

Business appointments

John Lewis names two new directors

Mr J. B. Foster and Mr E. J. Pearce have been made directors of John Lewis & Co.

Mr Brian Arnold, financial controller of Commercial Union Assurance, is to be general manager, finance, from January 1.

Mr Joseph Burnett-Stuart will join the board of Barclays Bank UK Management from January 1.

Sir Dallas Bernard and Mr Stephen Mogford are now directors of the Italian International Bank.

Mr K. Wood is to become a director of Commonwealth Mining Investments (Australia) from January 1.

Mr Peter Atley is now sole managing director of May & Hassell following the retirement of Mr N. S. Atley, who remains as a non-executive director.

Mr Francis Perkins has been elected chairman of the Insurance Brokers' Registration Council.

Mr David Fenner has joined Coventry Climax from Coles Cranes to take responsibility for sales and marketing. The appointment will lead to the establishment on January 1 of Climax International Sales, of which Mr Fenner is managing director-designate.

Mr Alan Evans, Mr Colin Vickery and Mr Richard Morgan have been made directors of Schroder Computer Services.

Mr Roger Cakebread, general manager of Unimation in Europe, has been named managing director of a new company, Unimation (Europe). Mr Norman Brotherton becomes a director.

Following its acquisition by O & K Orenstein & Koppel, of West Germany, Mr D. M. Saunders, Mr R. H. Shorer, Mr M. Ingleson, Mr W. E. Marson, Mr R. B. Harold and Mr R. Rushworth have resigned from the board of United Lift. The new board consists of Professor H. Heusler (chairman), Mr C. H. Gray (managing director), Mr R. Eisentraut (deputy managing director), Dr B. Paul and Mr B. Kiefer.

Mr Jack Bainbridge becomes chairman and production director of Bainbridge Bros (Mytholmroyd). Mr Harry Bainbridge retires as chairman and Mr Brian Bunsby has been made managing director.

Mr G. A. Clark, Mr A. D. Eddowes, Mr R. H. Harrison, Mr J. Manning and Mr R. W. Thrower have joined the board of Brown Shipley Insurance Services.

Mr J. D B. Rowe, Mr P. J. Robson, Mr C. Hall and Mr G. M. Ridley will become partners in Slaughter and May on January 1.

Mr Ian Anderson, general manager of Rochas Perfumes, is now managing director.

Mr J. E. Eardley, managing director of British Syphon Industries, becomes executive chairman, succeeding Mr J. M. Anderson, who remains as deputy chairman. Mr J. Coull joins the board and takes over as managing director from January 1.

Mr Lewis Garfield becomes a non-executive director on the main board of Caravans International.

Mr Phillip Davies becomes a director of Fairview Industrial Developments.

Mr E. F. Sandiford is the new finance director of Flotex.

Mr Peter Breen has joined the board of Exacta Circuits.

Consumers criticize PO pricing powers

By Malcolm Brown

The power of a near-monopoly nationalized industry like the Post Office amounts virtually to the power of taxation and the temptation to raise prices or lower quality, rather than cut costs, is too great.

This is one of the main findings of the National Consumer Council in its response, published today to the Carter Report on the Post Office. Comments from industry, consumers and other interested parties are now being studied by Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, before the Government makes any decisions on reforming the corporation.

The NCC says the Post Office should be far more accountable to the public. The Government's policy for reorganizing the corporation must be based on three principles, it says: efficient management, consumer involvement and public accountability.

The Carter recommendation to split the Post Office into two businesses should be accepted it says—provided the costs of separation are reasonable. But it wants to make sure that the consumer's voice is sufficiently strongly represented.

"Consumers should sit on the Post Office board—or boards, if the businesses are split—alongside industry officials and employees. These boards would be responsible for drawing long-term plans, deciding budgets and setting performance standards. Below these boards would be management committees.

"We regard direct involvement of consumer representatives in policymaking in this way as more important than the creation of an advisory council along the lines proposed by the Carter Committee", the council points out.

An independent system is vital, it argues, for publicly examining the decisions taken by management and monitoring the way these decisions are put into practice. It recommends that the Post Office Users' National Council should be given the teeth befitting a tougher watchdog.

Other recommendations made by the council are that the corporation should reconsider its decision to drop Sunday mail collections, and that the "postbus" service should be expanded in areas where public transport is inadequate.

The council also says that prices should take account of the costs of goods and services provided, and that any necessary subsidy should come out of taxation, not out of the consumer's pocket.

US steel buyers seek 'trigger' loopholes

Pittsburgh, Dec 18.—As the Carter Administration makes its final calculations on the "trigger prices" mechanism designed to halt dumping of imported steel, sceptical United States steelmakers and steel buyers are busy looking for loopholes.

Actual trigger prices—the minimum at which steel imports can be sold here without prompting quick dumping penalties—will not be announced until later this month. The Government's final trigger price on several hundred product categories will be pegged to the production and shipping costs of the most efficient international producers, the Japanese.

In recent days some top United States industry officials have engaged in a form of "reverse jawboning"—trying to pressure the Administration into setting high trigger prices, which might reduce the flow of foreign steel to a trickle.

But industry insiders also are studying potential ways for foreign mills and their customers to beat the system. The loopholes they have discovered include:

1—Offering extended credit terms to distributors and other buyers;

2—Selling primary-quality steel as secondary material, or absorbing usual extra charges for special size, quality or tolerance requirements;

3—Using foreign-owned distributors, which might purchase steel at the specified trigger prices and then sell it at cut-rate prices. In this way importing concerns would take losses "downstream";

4—Switching away from sales of standard products, such as plates and sheets, towards fabricated products, such as bridge girders or highway guard rails. These fabricated products will not be covered by the floor price system.

For both the Government and the domestic steel industry, these potential loopholes could pose further problems. If the new approach appears to offer less protection than existing anti-dumping laws, the domestic industry could scuttle the plan by filing additional dumping complaints under the old law, tying up the resources of the United States Treasury Department.

Regardless of these loopholes, trigger prices are likely to make foreign steel considerably more expensive.—AP-Dow Jones.

Plan for Northern Ireland a step to stability

Industry in the regions

The decision to produce an economic plan for Northern Ireland will be welcomed as yet another positive step by Mr Mason, Secretary of State, towards achieving some sort of stability in the troubled province.

Reduction of chronic unemployment and the creation of a better life for all are important ingredients in the battle against terrorism, and the new economic plan is expected to make a vital contribution towards these aims.

People in Northern Ireland are constantly reminding Westminster that they are an integral part of the United Kingdom, so it comes as no great surprise that Mr Mason and his administration should be thinking in terms of obtaining some kind of spin-off benefit from state-owned enterprises. The only surprising element is that nobody appears to have thought of exploring this avenue of work creation before.

There appears to be no reason, for instance, why the Belfast shipyard of Harland and Wolff should not receive any new orders for naval vessels. They have orders for the most advanced modern bulk carriers for an oil company of world renown to the strictest of specifications.

The yard is relatively trouble free on the labour side and if security is considered a likely problem, it may be pointed out that missile systems have been manufactured in Northern Ireland by Short Brothers for years without the slightest problem.

The proposed new economic plan will be prepared in government offices and then passed to the recently-appointed Northern Ireland Economic Council—the first big job the 15-member council, chaired by Professor C. F. Carter, vice-chancellor of Lancaster university, formerly of Queens, Belfast—will undertake.

Mr Mason made it clear to the council on its formation that its three main aims would be to hold on to existing jobs and help companies in short to medium-term difficulties, to make sure that Northern Ireland's only natural resource—manpower—was put to its best use and to establish a sound basis for competitive industry by expanding existing industry and attracting new companies and new jobs.

Mr Mason is the first to admit that a breakthrough on the jobs front is sorely needed. Numerically there are 61,753 unemployed, about half the number in, for instance, Yorkshire and Humberside, but in terms of depressed communities, the figure takes on menacing significance.

In Strabane, for instance, 27.8 per cent of the working population is unemployed. In Newry the figure is 23.2 per cent, in Dungannon 21 per cent and in Craigavon 8.7 per cent, the lowest figure. Belfast, the most prosperous area has 8.8 per cent out of work.

The reasons are not hard to find. The decline of traditional industries, notably textiles, agriculture and shipbuliding, started long before the current political troubles. Some 15,000 jobs were lost in shipbuilding in the 1950s and 1960s.

Textiles and agriculture brought the figure to 100,000 out of a total workforce of some 500,000, worse than anywhere else in the United Kingdom.

Mr John Dowdall of the Department of Commerce points out: "Industrial growth enjoyed a successful period in the 60s when we got more than our share for our side. This went a long way to transforming our industrial base before the troubles hit us. By 1970 over one third of industry was promoted in the postwar period with government assistance.

"Most of the large firms came in the late 50s and early 60s . . . and gave manufacturing industry an impetus which carried it forward to the troubles."

Manufacturing industry has never been the target of terrorists. Since 1969 when the troubles started only 17 companies have closed, affecting 800 people as a result of the bombers.

The Department of Commerce feels that the impact of terrorism on manufacturing will be long term.

There is, however, an awakening of interest by the United States and West Germany in Northern Ireland as a location for manufacturing investment with the EEC.

This then is the background against which the new economic plan is being forged. It has to be hoped it is touched with the same success that Mr Mason's other planning has enjoyed.

Ronald Kershaw

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time for a great debate on the British corporation

From the Director of the Oxford Centre for Management Studies

Sir, Being engaged on a study of the duties and responsibilities of directors in British companies, I have had to pay more than cursory attention to the White Paper on the conduct of company directors.

The recommendation favouring non-executive directors and encouraging the formation of audit committees, following North American practice, fails to recognize the quite different situation facing directors there and seems to be based on an inadequate analysis and a paucity of thought about the position in British company board rooms.

The corporation, like its counterpart, the trade union, is an outgrowth of nineteenth-century entrepreneurial capitalism. Both the law and the underpinning ideology have been left far behind by the striking changes to companies in recent years.

The myth of the shareholders' ability to control the enterprise through the appointment of directors has been widely exposed. But from whence do the directors derive their authority, wherein lies their legitimacy? The law scarcely distinguishes ICI from the corner grocer's shop and treats a company run by a dominant individual combining chairman with chief executive role as identical with a company in which independent directors exercise control over management actions.

The question to be tackled before duties of directors can be defined meaningfully, before proposals for outside directors are given statutory authority, before the discussion of insider trading makes sense is—how do we want businesses to be run in Britain? Indeed, we may have to give much more attention to alternative ways of being a successful top management before we even understand the issues.

We need another great debate in Britain, as well as the one on education; this time on the corporation.

Yours faithfully,
BOB TRICKER,
Director,
Oxford Centre for Management Studies,
Kennington,
Oxford OX1 5NY.
December 12.

Route of the Channel tunnel high-speed rail link

From John Whitehouse

Sir, When such eminent men as Sir John Colville (December 8) and Sir Eugène Melville (December 2) write to you proposing the reinstatement of the Channel tunnel project, I can only feel extremely apprehensive for the many people in Kent and Surrey who live within five miles of the high-speed rail link.

I am sure you will understand that we will not accept 180 mph "juggernaut" trains passing through our villages and towns at three minute intervals day and night which was British Rail's proposal last time round. Gentlemen, I am afraid you will only reach Paris over our dead bodies.

If humour will have its way in these dark days, I wonder what Sir Eugene would say if the Channel tunnel projected was routed through his beloved Aldeburgh.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WHITEHOUSE,
Moat Farmhouse,
Leigh,
Tonbridge,
Kent.
December 13.

Arbitration in Kuwait

From Mr Terence M. Lane

Sir, May one of the "glassy-eyed" international lawyers referred to in Malcolm Brown's article on Kuwait (December 14) be permitted space to make the following comments?:

(a) Kuwaiti law does not require that Arabic must be used as the language of the arbitration. This has been expressly decided by the Kuwait Supreme Court.

(b) The provision in Kuwaiti law which requires the arbitration tribunal to give its award within three months is of automatic application unless the period is extended by the parties. It does not have to be invoked by either party. The representatives of the ministry refused or ignored the chairman's repeated requests to extend the period, despite his pleas that the tribunal could not fulfil its function unless the period was extended.

(c) The ministry itself included the arbitration clause in the contract. For the ministry thereafter to defeat the intention of the parties by rendering inoperative arbitration procedures freely adopted by the parties is regrettable and alarming.

Yours faithfully,
TERENCE M. LANE,
46-47 Bloomsbury Square,
London WC1A 2RU.
December 15.

Terms attached to 3½ per cent War Loan

From Mr Leonard E. Jones

Sir, Mr Arthur Palin (December 12) is one of the many victims of the fallacy that the British Government failed to keep the promise it made when issuing 3½ per cent War Loan in 1932. It was then issued with a promise that it would be "repayable in 1952 or at any time thereafter".

This was not a promise to redeem at any specified date, as had been the case with 5 per cent War Loan which was redeemed when the 3½ per cent War Loan was issued. It was a promise not to redeem before a specified date.

Every banker and every stockbroker and any person competent to advise investors undoubtedly knew this. It was a consideration then of value to the purchasers of this stock. The yield on this and on other British Government loan stock fell below 3½ per cent of the purchase price on the Stock Exchange in many of the years which followed; but the British Government continued to pay 3½ per cent of the nominal value of the stock, which was what they had promised to do. They are still keeping that promise.

Yours faithfully,
LEONARD E. JONES,
The Athenaeum,
Liverpool, 1.
December 12.

Price inflation

From Mr Eric J. Pentecost

Sir, I wish to object to Professor Lee's assertion (December 13) that "price inflation depends upon some previous increase in the money supply". For this to be the case Professor Lee has to make two implicit assumptions:

(1) That the velocity of circulation of money is a stable and predictable function of real income and prices (among other arguments) and

(2) that the economy is at full employment.

On assumption one, despite reams of empirical work, it has still not been firmly established that the velocity of circulation is a stable and predictable function of a small number of variables in the United Kingdom. The second assumption is surely incorrect since unemployment is of the order of 1,500,000 people and many firms are operating with some level of spare capacity.

Thus I suggest that at the present time we need to look elsewhere for an explanation of price inflation.

Yours faithfully,
E. PENTECOST,
"Herbann",
Bush Road, Cuxton,
Rochester, Kent ME2 1HB.
December 13.

also on page 22

DRAWING OF BONDS

CHILEAN EXTERNAL LONG TERM DEBT—LAW NO. 8962

CHILEAN 4½% LOAN 1886

Notice is hereby given that all the outstanding bonds of the above loan will be redeemed at par on 1st January 1978, from which date all interest thereon will cease.

These bonds when presented at the office of N. M. Rothschild & Sons Limited for redemption must have the coupon dated 1st July 1978, and all subsequent coupons, attached.

The usual interval of four clear days will be required for examination.

CHILEAN 5% LOAN 1892

Notice is hereby given that all the outstanding bonds of the above loan will be redeemed at par on 1st January 1978, from which date all interest thereon will cease.

These bonds when presented at the office of N. M. Rothschild & Sons Limited for redemption must have the coupon dated 1st July 1978, and all subsequent coupons, attached.

The usual interval of four clear days will be required for examination.

CHILEAN 5% LOAN 1896

Notice is hereby given that a Drawing of Bonds of the above loan took place on 8th December 1977, attended by Mr Keith Francis Croft Baker, of the firm of John Venn & Sons, Notary Public, when the following bonds were drawn for redemption at par on 1st January 1978, from which date all interest thereon will cease:—

3 BONDS OF £1,000 NOMINAL CAPITAL EACH
Numbers:
556 1060 1183

7 BONDS OF £500 NOMINAL CAPITAL EACH
Numbers:
1459 2392 2929 3955 3476 3541 [illegible]

137 BONDS OF £100 NOMINAL CAPITAL EACH
Numbers:
[illegible]

147 Bonds amounting to £20,200 nominal capital.
Witness: K. F. C. Baker, Notary Public.

Each of the above bonds when presented at the office of N. M. Rothschild & Sons Limited for redemption must bear the coupon dated 1st July 1978, and all subsequent coupons, otherwise the amount of the missing coupons will be deducted from the principal to be repaid.

The usual interval of four clear days will be required for examination.

CHILEAN 5% LOAN 1906

Notice is hereby given that a Drawing of Bonds of the above loan took place on 8th December 1977, attended by Mr Keith Francis Croft Baker, of the firm of John Venn & Sons, Notary Public, when the following bonds were drawn for redemption at par on 1st January 1978, from which date all interest thereon will cease:—

1 BOND OF £1,000 NOMINAL CAPITAL
Number:
164

3 BONDS OF £500 NOMINAL CAPITAL EACH
Numbers:
670 682 704

29 BONDS OF £100 NOMINAL CAPITAL EACH
Numbers:
[illegible]

33 Bonds amounting to £5,400 nominal capital.
Witness: K. F. C. Baker, Notary Public.

Each of the above bonds when presented at the office of N. M. Rothschild & Sons Limited for redemption must bear the coupon dated 1st July 1978, and all subsequent coupons, otherwise the amount of the missing coupons will be deducted from the principal to be repaid.

The usual interval of four clear days will be required for examination.

Continued

CHILEAN 7½% LOAN 1922

Notice is hereby given that a Drawing of Bonds of the above loan took place on 8th December 1977, attended by Mr Keith Francis Croft Baker, of the firm of John Venn & Sons Notary Public, when the following bonds were drawn for redemption at par on 1st January 1978, from which date all interest thereon will cease:—

4 BONDS OF £1,000 NOMINAL CAPITAL EACH
Numbers:
124 326 399 490

7 BONDS OF £500 NOMINAL CAPITAL EACH
Numbers:
534 783 982 1104 1177
1251 1491

42 BONDS OF £100 NOMINAL CAPITAL EACH
Numbers:

1905	1634	1787	1858	1929
2180	2263	2305	2613	2757
2938	3102	3275	3480	3541
3678	3890	4240	4346	4602
4759	4988	5191	5265	5138
5555	5708	5789	6042	6155
6468	6897	6840	6982	7111
7534	7336	7595	7639	7776
7925	7996			

53 Bonds amounting to £11,700 nominal capital.
Witness: K. F. C. Baker, Notary Public.

Each of the above bonds when presented at the office of N. M. Rothschild & Sons Limited for redemption must bear the coupon dated 1st July 1978, and all subsequent coupons, otherwise the amount of the missing coupons will be deducted from the principal to be repaid.

The usual interval of four clear days will be required for examination.

New Court, St. Swithin's Lane, London EC4P 4DU.
19th December 1977.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948 In the Matter of LECRANKING Ltd. FORMERLY M. A. LOVEROCK Limited. Nature of Business: Investment Holding Company.

WINDING-UP ORDER MADE 31st October, 1977.

DATE and PLACE of FIRST MEETINGS:

CREDITORS 5th January, 1978, at Room 239, Templar House, 81 High Holborn, London, WC1, at 2.00 o'clock.

CONTRIBUTORIES on the same day and at the same place at 2.30 o'clock.

L. R. BATES, Official Receiver and Provisional Liquidator.

COMPANY NOTICES

SWISS BANK CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting will be held in the Stadt-Casino, Steinenberg 14, Basle, on Tuesday the 10th January, 1978, at 3 p.m., to consider increasing the capital from S.Frs.1,348,020,000 to S.Frs.1,482,820,000 by the issue of 660,000 new bearer shares and 688,000 registered shares and 334,000 participation certificates (all of S.Frs.100 nominal) each at a price of S.Frs.160—and ranking for dividend from the 1st January 1978, to be offered to shareholders in the proportion of one new for each ten old held of each corresponding category and to amend Article 4 of the Articles of Association (the text of the amendment can be seen at any office or branch of the Bank).

Holders of bearer shares can obtain admission cards and proxy forms from the London Office, 99, Gresham Street, London EC2P 2BR or from any other branch of the Corporation against deposit of the share certificates (or an approved bank's Certificate of Custody) not later than Wednesday 4th January, 1978. The relevant shares must remain so deposited until after the Meeting. Official invitations and admission cards will have been sent direct to holders of registered shares registered before the 16th December, 1977. No registration of shares will be made during the period from the 16th December, 1977, to the 10th January, 1978.

Basle.
6th December, 1977.

MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL

BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL BILLS

£7,000,000 due 16 March 1978 issued 15 December 1977. Average £98.150. £72,500,000 applications. £14,000,000 outstanding.

TRANSFER BOOKS

QUEBEC CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY

4% FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURE STOCK

In preparation for the payment of the half-yearly interest due 1st February, 1978, on the above Stock, the TRANSFER BOOKS will be CLOSED at 3.30 p.m. on 16th January and will be RE-OPENED on 18th January 1978.

W. E. REEVE.
For Assistant Secretary.
8 Waterloo Place,
Pall Mall,
London, SW1Y 4AQ.
19th December, 1977.

LOWER PERAK TIN DREDGING BERHAD
(Incorporated in Malaysia)

The TRANSFER BOOKS will be CLOSED from 11th to 13th January, 1978, both dates inclusive.

هكذا من الاصل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

A gilt-edged Christmas

It would be wrong to describe the equity market as gloom-laden but there has certainly been precious little that one would call festive about the run-up to Christmas *this year.*

The overriding reasons for this are twofold. First, the corporate Santa has consistently failed to produce the kind of profits growth the market had been looking for earlier this year. Second, markets tend to respond defensively to any upturn in short-term interest rates and these have now bounced quite sharply off their early October "lows", albeit that they are generally expected to soften a little early in the new year.

What has added to the general reluctance to commit substantial new funds to equities —except by those chasing some rather large investment trusts—has been the more than usually divergent views on where the equity market is likely to go in 1978. On our view of next year's prospects, more anon. But at the moment I would think that inside the market one could find a far wider than normal range of views as to the likely resting point for the *FT* Index a year hence—and rather less confidence than this time last year in the making of those predictions.

Meanwhile, in the gilt market November's gloom has been rapidly cast aside and the successful resumption of funding by the authorities has rapidly been tempting the bulls back into the arena. The latest *Gilt Edged Review* from Sebag, for instance, suggests that those who argue that the bull market in gilts is over will be proved quite definitely wrong.

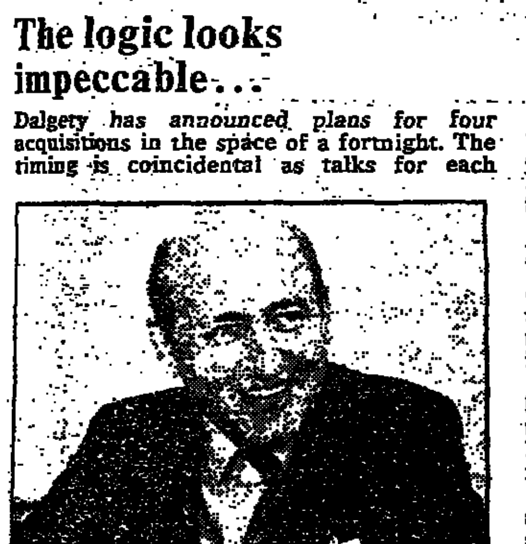
One of the grounds for their case is their belief in the "continued conservatism in Labour economic thinking". In short, Sebag clearly believe that the Government will think twice about the degree of reflation they should introduce next spring. It is a line also followed by Messel, who, in their latest weekly *Gilt Monitor*, argue that the main worry for the market is the rapid establishment of a press consensus that the gap between the *£8,600m public sector* borrowing requirement ceiling for 1978-79 and the prospective outcome of £6,800m implies automatic tax cuts of £1,800m in April.

Certainly, were the Government to opt for taking up the whole of the slack available within the PSBR ceiling, there would, as has been argued here before, be good reason for the market to hesitate: there would then be a very serious risk of fiscal and monetary policy proving incompatible.

Dalgety

The logic looks impeccable...

Dalgety has announced plans for four acquisitions in the space of a fortnight. The timing is coincidental as talks for each



Mr David Donne, chairman of Dalgety.

started at varying times—one going back eighteen months—but their nature emphasizes the group's philosophy in its attempt to minimise its exposure to Australia where £76m of capital is tied up producing a nil return.

Federated Chemical fits into these plans neatly indeed. Although technically it appears a lot could go wrong in putting this deal together, in fact there seems little chance of its falling through. Sir Frederick Wood is set to accept with his own and Croda's 22 per cent holdings, and shareholders are offered a swap into a company with a better yield, and increase in capital value from around 50p when talks were first announced to 69½p.

For Dalgety the deal is almost a back-door rights issue. The issue of shares worth £10.3m picks up net assets of more than £3m plus a net £6.7m from the sale of Federated's 12.8 per cent stake in Tioxide to ICI and Lead Industries.

For very little outlay therefore, Dalgety increases the chemical section of its United Kingdom business to sales of £75m and profits of around £3m while increasing its ability to build further on the United Kingdom base.

The overall plan is to maintain a relationship of roughly one third assets and profits in the United Kingdom with two-thirds overseas. United Kingdom assets have been increased tenfold in the last seven years to £76m at the last balance sheet date at June 30. Acquisitions since then of the Murphy Chemicals business from Glaxo, George Sellar a small agricultural equipment merchant, and Federated, will be balanced by further acquisitions overseas to follow the purchase of Kelley Farquhar, a United States frozen food group a fortnight ago. Thus the United States is likely to be built up at the expense of Australia while in the United Kingdom the increased move into chemicals is adding a strong fourth leg to the interests in malting, livestock and agriculture.

The logic looks impeccable but it still has to show through in results. Dalgety only *made £17.1m profit last year having reached* £19.2m three years earlier.

Timber

At bottom of the cycle

For timber companies the trading climate is proving every bit as exciting as the market dared to predict.

With the building recession still biting hard, the slide from last year's healthy profits levels has been sudden and sharp. *Interim figures from major groups in the* past few weeks have reflected profit falls ranging from 2 per cent in the case of Montague L. Meyer to over 60 per cent in the case of May & Hassell and Phoenix.

Activity in the highly cyclical timber industry, however has been in a trough rather longer than the profits record suggests. Last year's sharp profits recovery was based largely on the demise of sterling producing fairly substantial stock profits with the help of adroit buying policies.

That situation has now been turned on its head with a strong pound and devaluations in supplying countries like Sweden, Finland and Portugal creating competitive pressures which are hurting margins. With no real signs of an upturn in housing, none of the leading groups is predicting anything but a worsening United Kingdom scenario for the remainder of the year.

But with lower interest rates easing the pressure on financing charges while stock levels are being held to a minimum in most cases, leading groups seem to be almost through the worst, and without recourse to the kind of rationalization which seemed imminent less than a year ago.

If housebuilding and renovation activity begin to turn up even slightly through 1978 the effect would be multiplied several times in terms of profits such is the effect of the industry's gearing.

Some yields in the sector are comfortably above the average in the building materials group of under 6 per cent and with comfortable cover maximum dividend increases this time are not likely to be vulnerable.

Among the major concerns both Meyer yielding 8¼ per cent and Mallinson-Denny, which yields 9 per cent, offer attractions given their powerful timber buying capabilities and wider spread of interests. In fact Mallinson which actually increased pre-tax profits 10 per cent at the interim stage *thanks to overseas contributions* and lower susceptibility to softwood price movements is confidently predicting further improvement in the second-half.

On the basis that full-scale rationalization in the industry may have only been deferred rather than cancelled International Timber in which Meyer has a stake of over 10 per cent and Phoenix in which Royco now has 25 per cent have speculative attractions.

IMF in search of a leader

Mr John Connally, the former United States Secretary of the *Treasury, is said to have* told friends in 1971 that the International Monetary Fund was "like a museum in which anything that wasn't stuffed ought to be". Today the fund commands much respect among its 132 member governments, and from the United States Treasury.

In appointing Dr Johannes Witteveen as managing director of the IMF in the summer of 1973, *the finance ministers* of the leading industrial countries were acutely aware of the tarnished image of the fund, its difficult tasks in monitoring the new floating exchange rate system and the challenges before it in helping to construct a new monetary regime.

They did not envisage (nor could they have envisaged) the massive problems the fund would confront as a result of *the 1973-74 oil price increases* and the 1974-75 global recession.

Dr Witteveen, who was nobody's first choice, has astonished almost everyone by the skills he has displayed in enhancing the fund's influence, in ensuring the satisfactory conclusion of the negotiations on changes in the fund's articles in Jamaica in 1976, and in forging agreements to strengthen the fund's financial resources. Because of a serious illness in his family and for other personal reasons the managing director has decided to retire next summer and finding a successor poses big problems.

In the next few weeks EEC finance ministers are likely to agree upon a candidate who will assuredly be offered a five-year contract starting next autumn. In selecting the man for this difficult job the finance ministers will have to think carefully about the problems that the fund is likely to encounter in the next few years.

The greatest challenges facing the IMF's new head will fall in the political area. Once again the fund's influence and standing are under attack and the consequences of ill-considered or tactless actions by the fund's *leadership* could be grave. Increasing numbers of countries are being forced to seek credit from the IMF as their passport to raising funds in the private capital markets.

The commercial banks are providing most of the *international* balance of payments' finance today, but the bankers are becoming wary and in many instances they are demanding that countries first obtain IMF credits before being granted bank loans. Such credit from the IMF demands acceptance by governments of IMF policy conditions and it is in this area that the fund's political skills are being tested.

There appears to be an *increasing* number of governments which see the IMF as a bully that strives to impose over-harsh credit conditions. Serious domestic political problems seem to be developing in many countries as governments swallow the bitter pills that the IMF seems keen *to distribute.*

To pressure governments too much, as the IMF may well be doing (possibly in Turkey and Portugal and even Italy) could result in countries failing to honour their IMF commitments once they have obtained loans. Such a development could *undermine the confidence of* bankers in providing balance of payments loans and so lead to a serious disruption of the capital markets and the monetary system.

On the other hand, the failure of the IMF to demand policies that offer some real hope of balance of payments adjustment by debtor countries would seriously undermine the confidence of bankers in the IMF itself.

Thus the fund must walk a dangerous line, imposing conditions on its loans that are both adequate in economic terms and also politically acceptable to borrowing nations. The new managing director of the IMF will need substantial political experience and a strong grasp of economics *if he is to succeed* on this front.

To no small extent the scope the IMF has in determining its loan conditions depends on its supply of lendable resources. If

Dr Witteveen: Nobody's first choice but he has enhanced the fund's influence

the IMF could loan greater amounts for longer periods then it is possible that its credit conditions would become more acceptable to many of its borrowers.

The governments able to supply the IMF with finance appear to have appreciated this point in agreeing recently to the establishment of a new IMF supplementary facility that can lend funds for longer periods than has traditionally been the case.

The resources of the fund today are dangerously low given the scale of the distortion in the international balance of payments adjustment picture and the prospect of huge deficits for many oil importing countries for several years to come. Thus the new managing *director's* political skills will also be sorely challenged as he strives to persuade the richer IMF members to provide the fund with much more money.

Dr Witteveen, despite his evident skills, was only able to induce the richer governments to provide the IMF with modest sums from time to time (modest by comparison with the overall scale of international debt by nations) and the new round of quota increasing *discussions* which are about to start and which are unlikely to be concluded until the new IMF chief is firmly installed, are going to be exceptionally difficult.

In the next few years it seems likely, irrespective of the result of the quota negotiations, that the IMF will have continually to seek more and more funds from its richer member governments. The extent to which it will need additional *finance* will depend *to* some degree on the willingness of commercial bankers to continue providing thousands of millions of dollars to deficit countries.

The IMF may have to forge some kind of closer relationship with the commercial bankers, possibly with a view to joint lending operations or even direct fund borrowing in the private capital markets. To enter into such ventures and even to maintain the confidence of bankers in continuing to lend vast sums for balance of payments purposes, it is essential that the chief of the IMF have a sound grasp of banking and of the ways bankers think.

All of these problems derive from a monetary system that *itself is in need of better over-*all management. To improve the adjustments system and thus to ensure greater control over international capital flows and the uses and creation of reserves, will force the fund into taking a leadership role in discussions that seek to improve cooperation and *coordination* of economic policy between countries.

At present the IMF plays a peripheral role in this context, being excluded from the summit economic meetings of leaders of industrial countries, and from the frequent meetings of finance ministers of these countries, and being little more than an observer at the important meetings between the *groups of industrial oil-export*ing and developing countries.

In all these discussions the IMF's interim committee of finance ministers could play a more active and more useful role than is presently the case. In addition, the IMF could improve cooperation between itself and the World Bank and the Gatt. It seems a logical follow-up to the negotiations that ended in Jamaica in 1976 *that the IMF press forward in* attempts to promote more substantive international negotiations on the means of increasing stability to the global monetary system.

As one makes a general *tour d'horizon* of the IMF's future challenges it emerges quite clearly that the next managing director, in addition to the other necessary qualities, must be someone who enjoys wide-spread prestige in his own right. There are very *few such* qualified people and the exclusion of an American from this post, such as Mr Paul Volcker, makes the search all the more difficult.

Moreover, it appears that those European finance ministers who will make the choice are limiting their search to people holding government positions and who are no older than 60. Thus exceptionally talented and widely respected men like Lord Roll, chairman of Warburgs and formerly of the United Kingdom Treasury, or Dr Wilfried Guth, a joint *chief* executive of the Deutsche Bank and formerly a German IMF director, are automatically excluded even if they would have been willing to take the job.

There appears to be a serious danger that a professional civil servant, such as M Jacques de Larosiere, the head of the French Treasury, might get the job largely because of strong pressure from the French Government, and the lack of sufficient thought by ministers of the variety of qualifications that the IMF managing director really ought to have.

The danger here is that a man will come to the helm of the IMF who neither has the deep experience of private banking that may be necessary, nor enjoys the reputation that gives him the confidence publicly to challenge the policies of the most important governments if he perceives them to be misconceived.

It was the lack of a strong personality with political standing that so damaged the IMF's position when the monetary system was rocked by one crisis after another in the late 1960s and early 1970s. It was the recognition of this that made most ministers agree that the ideal head of the IMF would be Dr Jelle Zijlstra, the head of the Dutch Central, chairman of the Bank for International Settlements and a former Dutch prime minister, who unfortunately rejected the offer.

Frank Vogl

W German railways overruns the spending buffers

With its overall cost to the country now soaring beyond £3,000m a year, West Germany's national railway system, the *Deutsche Bundesbahn, has* abandoned hope of eliminating even its nominal deficit by 1985. That was the objective set by the federal government in last year's plan for a drastic contraction of the system, but the DB directorate now says it is impossible to attain by closures alone.

The railway needs help to *modernize and rationalize its* operation more speedily, in particular to reduce its excessive manpower; and the terms of competition must be modified to give the railways a fairer crack of the whip against other modes—inland water *transport especially — which* bear far less of their true track costs.

The railway's *demarche* has been prompted by the certainty of poor financial performance in 1977. Its passenger traffic is holding up and in fact shows slight improvement in inter-city rail travel, but the freight sector is hard hit by the recession in heavy industry. Since 1964 full wagon-load business has slumped from 191 million *tonnes to this year's anticipated* figure of 140 million tonnes.

The nominal deficit for 1977 is expected to be 4,570m Deutsche marks (£1,130m), an

G. Freeman Allen

18 per cent deterioration compared with 1976. But that balance is struck after taking into account DM270m by way of various federal fare supports and compensations. *Add to these* two amounts further federal grants for investment and track upkeep, plus provincial and municipal finance of the country's urban rail development, and the full social cost of the DB, seen through British eyes, probably exceeds £4,000m.

Not that West German public opinion interprets the figures anything like so starkly. By and large it accepts a massively supported railway system with a well-paid and protected staff as a natural fact of present-day life.

The gross imbalance between staff costs and uneconomic fare levels is a fundamental factor in the DB's now almost irretrievable situation. Since 1959, the last year in which the railway's books were nominally balanced, the average annual cost of a West German railwayman in wages, pension and other social provisions has more than quadrupled to DM35,160 or about £8,750.

But on the other side of the sheet, local passenger fares *have been so rigorously pegged* by the federal government that even after a recent 25 per cent increase—the first for two years, moreover—some users are paying as little as 10 per cent of their full travel costs. The balance, the railway insists, is not fully met by the present scales of federal compensation.

A 4.2 per cent rise recently announced in inter-city fares is only the first for three years. *In this sector the railway has* more pricing freedom, but claims that it is charging to the limit of market tolerance in a country of *autobahnen*, especially since a noticeable erosion of traffic by long-haul buses this year.

Labour-saving modernization and rationalization already carried out makes about 20,000 of *the DB's 375,000 workforce sur*plus to requirements already. But redundancies are ruled out by Government promises at the time the closure plan was issued.

Unsurprisingly, then, staff costs account for 67.7 per cent of the DB's 1977 expenditure; in fact, if one disregards the subsequent federal compensation to make up sub-standard local passenger fares, wages and *salaries exceed total traffic* revenue by as much as DM5,370m, or 44 per cent.

So far the reduction of the high wage bill has been dependent almost entirely on natural wastage and a stop on all recruitment save the minimum of essential apprentices (this last *measure, incidentally, has al*ready pushed railwaymen's average age two or three years above the West German industrial norm).

The railway is insisting on maximum mobility of both white and blue-collar staff within its own enterprise. In addition, it is now pressing for an agreement to the transfer of surplus workers to other spheres of public and private industry.

*Until it can shed staff accept*ably, of course, the DB's rationalization and technological modernization is aggravating the problem. And the scale of that modernization is adding to the financial burden.

Investment is now running at a level of about DM5,000m annually, of which little more than a fifth is covered by government grant. Consequently the DB has had to raise its annual borrowing to *about DM5,000m, which will lift* its interest payments to a formidable DM4,000m by 1981.

Physically, the DB has always suffered from the immense handicap of inheriting half a railway laid out primarily for lateral traffic flows and having to adapt it to West *Germany's north-south commer*cial axis.

Long stretches of now vital trunk routes, such as Hamburg to the south, Cologne to the south-east and Stuttgart to Munich, wind and climb in a way that hobbles passenger train speed and limits track capacity to handle freight. High up the DB's list of priority investments is the building of new, better-aligned railways to bypass the most constricting sections and the upgrading of other stretches of main line.

A year or two back the DB was envisaging operation of 150 mph passenger trains on these improved trunk routes. Now the sights have been lowered for the foreseeable *future to 125 mph, since the* railway is intent on maximizing use of these modernized main lines by both freight and passenger trains.

Rather than go for new passenger train speed ceilings, the DB is concerned to narrow the speed band of all traffic. Besides reequipping its freight vehicle fleet for higher speed, the DB is also out to reduce costs by concentrating as much freight movement as possible into *4,500-5,000* tonne trainloads.

Business Diary in Europe: Lesson for the advertisers

The European Commission is organizing its first colloquium on consumer education in schools at the Grosvenor House in London today and tomorrow.

Inconveniently close to Christmas, you might suppose but by all accounts the assembling Eurocrats are delighted to have an excuse to be in London, and within walking distance of the Christmas consumer *delights* of Marks and Spencer and Selfridges.

Not all British companies can expect such pretty seasonal compliments though. *Marion* Giordan, a British consumer educationist and organiser of the confeernce, plans to expose to the gathered Europeans the ways in which some British manufacturers issue teaching material for use in schools which is designed to "get at" children in their classes and sell them products which might, in some cases, even be harmful to their health.

The *subsidized* teaching materials which bother Miss Giordan are cheap and attractive, making ordinary school books look dull, but have as their main "educational" message the manufacturer's name and the names of products.

Fairly typical ... is ... the Mattessons Teaching Aid, produced by the cooked meats people, in which every recipe features one of the company's products and every picture shows the company name.

The British Sugar Bureau will be rapped for their "Story of Sugar" series for primary schools, which associates sugar with energy without mentioning any drawbacks of sugar consumption such as tooth decay or heart disease.

The Mars Health Education Fund's teaching pack on dental care *promotes* "*correct* mouth cleaning" without any hint of the possible wisdom of avoiding sweet and sticky foods, like Mars bars.

Miss Giordan's biggest brickbat is reserved for Crookes Anestan, who make Femfresh vaginal deodorant. Their schools booklet, *Someone Nice to be Near*, says Miss Giordan, "suggests, contrary to all recommendations from doctors and consumer organizations, that schoolgirls should use vaginal deodorants.

Despite increasingly shrill lobbying by Distillers, the Scotch whisky group, the European Commission is expected *to rule either today or tomor*row that the company's dual pricing policy is in breach of EEC competition laws and must cease forthwith.

In the face of the apparently cast-iron legal case of the commission's competition department, Christopher Tugendhat, the former Conservative MP turned EEC budget commissioner, has conceded defeat in his rearguard attempt to block, or modify, the ruling against Distillers.

Tugendhat had argued that Scottish sensitivities as well as the economic impact on an important British exporter, needed to be taken into account. But his colleagues, and especially Luxembourger Raymond Vouel, in charge of competition policy, were not prepared to give way.

Even a suggestion that the commission's decision should be postponed until the new year, so as not to introduce an unseasonable note into the Christmas festivities, *which* traditionally see a sharp increase in demand for Distillers' product, was rejected by the stony-hearted guardians of the Treaty of Rome.

The Commission remains unimpressed by Distillers' argument that it will have to add 50p a bottle to the price of Scotch in Britain and that discriminatory taxation in other EEC countries justifies the higher price the company has charged hitherto on the Continent.

"I see that British Leyland and Renault are thinking of further cooperation. What's the French for 'strikes'?"

*One of the more puzzling epi*sodes in recent German banking history has been the failure of the attack by the state of North Rhine Westphalia against the foreign business of the Westdeutsche Landesbank of Düsseldorf.

It was twelve days ago that the state government ordered the Düsseldorf finance minister to keep the foreign activities of the bank under *review* so that the state could be aware of any risks involved. The use of the word "risks" in the communique caused alarm among the bank's customers and financial circles abroad and a few days later the state government was forced into issuing a humiliating retraction.

After second thoughts the Düsseldorf government declared that it had no doubts about the credit worthiness of the bank and could see no risks in its foreign business beyond those that are normal for any bank.

It is true that they were piqued that the Westdeutsche Landesbank's chief executive Ludwig Poullain had bought property in the City of London for £6m without, it is alleged, having first properly consulted them.

But *it seems* that the main reason for the row was an attempt to carve out a bigger say for the state in the supervisory council of the bank. The state shares responsibility for guaranteeing the bank with the savings banks and local authority associations in North Rhine Westphalia.

The third group has long been a thorn in the side of the state government because it believes that in an emergency it would have to provide the cash for their share of the guarantee.

So Düsseldorf chose to make a frontal assault on the Westdeutsche's foreign activities to assert itself as the leading guarantor. In so doing it reinforced the arguments of those who see only harm in an increase in state influence over German banking.

France may be in the throes of its toughest and longest electricity strikes, but that has not stopped the industry's authority looking to the future. Electricité de France has just placed an order with a subsidiary of Thomson CSF for a 14.5m franc (£1.6m) switchboard for a nuclear generator. It is a magnificent switchboard, which will enable the engineers running it to deal with potential disasters such as a fracture of the cooling system in the heart of the reactor. It has been designed to meet any eventuality: except one. And that is actually being used in a nuclear power station. The switchboard is only a simulator to train technicians how to run the real thing. Perhaps, if the strikes continue, it will be as useful as the real thing.

MANAGEMENT — Edited by Rodney Cowton

Two-tier prices to keep the spirits up

The two-tier prices exist to protect the network of foreign distributors each of which have exclusive rights to market Scotch whisky in particular territories. The use of such distributors is traditional in exporting and particularly in alcoholic drinks

By challenging the Distillers Company's policy of charging dual pricing for exported whisky, the EEC Commission is threatening the basis of the company's overseas distribution structure.

The two prices exist to protect the network of foreign distributors each of which have exclusive rights to market Scotch whisky in particular territories. The use of such distributors is traditional in exporting generally, but it is *more extensively used for alcoholic drinks* than for most other mass market consumer products.

As operated by the drinks trade, the distributor is totally responsible not only for the physical handling of the product and maintaining stocks but also for advertising and promoting it. The manufacturer can offer advice on the way that this should be done, but the bulk of the money is put up by the distributor and the manufacturer has little control on how this is spent.

Arguments in favour of the system are that the distributor has the necessary local knowledge about market conditions in his area and carries the responsibility for any failure. This is especially useful in countries such as Italy where *bad debts are a serious problem*.

The provision of local knowledge about the morass of labelling, advertising and tax regulations by the distributor is highly valued by alcoholic drink exporters.

However, moves to protect sole distributors are generally frowned on by competition policymakers. Distributors who are not agents in the technical sense (although the term is loosely used to describe their activities) set prices as well as marketing policies. Antagonists argue that the temptation exists without competition, for them to fix these too high.

The trend in other mass market consumer industries has been away from distributorship. But the Scotch whisky producers, led by DCL (which *produces about half the industry's output*) is anxious to retain a structure through which it has built up an export trade in 180 countries, worth in total around £220m a year and representing over 80 per cent of production by volume.

Problems of control are reduced, as far as DCL is concerned, by the presence of over 100 rival brands. To the EEC alone, DCL exports more than six different makes of Scotch whisky, each handled by different distributors. Competition generated in this way, the company maintains, tends to act as a check on prices charged and and as a yardstick of the general efficiency between the 150 or so distributors used.

Unlike most other consumer goods exporters, Scotch whisky producers cannot work towards setting up production in foreign markets. Retail outlets for alcoholic drink are also so fragmented as to discourage an exporter-owned distribution network.

Above all, the costs of local *promotion, DCL argues, are* too high for the producer to bear alone.

DCL reckons that its continental distributors invest in promotion and selling costs an average of about 42p a bottle on top of the 70p a bottle cost *price. Promotion costs are* exceptionally heavy for Scotch whisky partly to combat discriminatory taxes which exist to protect locally produced spirits in most continental markets.

For example, in France the tax on a bottle of Scotch is more than the entire retail price of a bottle of French rum; in Italy, Scotch bears a much higher value added tax and a 17-fold higher stamp tax than does grappa; in Denmark the tax on Scotch is nearly double that on aquavit.

Promotion costs are also increased by curbs on media advertising in countries such as France. Instead of using newspapers and television, advertising has to be piecemeal (and costly).

Fancy dress costumes (the Johnnie Walker "dandies" in France), bar lamps made from VAT 69 bottles, table mats, key rings and sampling are among the devices used by distributors to give Scotch an edge over its rivals.

To encourage distributors to carry on spending at this rate other Scotch producers as well as DCL in 1975 replaced a total prohibition on unauthorized sales for export with a tiered price structure. Buyers of Scotch for sale in the United Kingdom pay 66.6p a bottle, sole distributors abroad pay approximately 70p but others who wish to export must pay a prohibitive £1.13.

It is this pricing policy which is being challenged by the EEC Commission as a result of complaints from wholesalers who wanted to export independently.

As well as objections from the commission, DCL has been meeting problems from so called "parallel" traders purchasing whisky at the lower *price ostensibly for distribution* in the United Kingdom and then exporting it to the Continent where it can undercut the prices charged by the distributors.

DCL can and does apply its own policing techniques and by withdrawing discounts it can control such practices by making it unprofitable. But there is little it can do against an EEC Commission edict except win time by an appeal.

Although widely publicized, the threat by DCL of raising United Kingdom prices to *bring them into line with those* charged for continental sale, is unlikely to be realized because of the impact it would have on domestic sales.

The more likely alternative is for DCL to withdraw the brands concerned from the United Kingdom market, but this it is reluctant to do because of the "spin-off" advantages of promoting the same brands in all European markets.

Patricia Tisdall

Business Diary, page 17

How the Timpson shoe business has benefited from a polish

When it is an individual's own name which is displayed above the door of a shop or factory it can give a special edge to *his personal* motivation. Particularly is this so when the name appears above not only one establishment, but 250 shoe shops and 150 repair centres.

So, at any rate, John Timpson has found since going back into the Timpson shoe business to attempt to halt a headlong slide in the market. Now, 2½ years later, with a turnover of £25m, the company is regaining its market share and, one by one, Mr Timpson's re-vamped shops are hitting and overtaking their profit targets.

In spite of the family tie, the problems Mr Timpson met and the solutions he devised are not exclusively applicable to him. Other managements can gather some tips.

The Timpson business is one where the company does not manufacture its products but is completely identified with them and is thus held exclusively responsible by the customer. The Timpson shoe shops buy their stock from Britain, Taiwan, Korea, Italy, Spain, France, Eastern Europe, Brazil and a mix of other countries and except for the Clark range of children's shoes, sells them under the Timpson name.

Mr John Timpson: Strategy to make the customer feel satisfied

There is not necessarily very much except the name to distinguish Timpson shoes from those being sold by other retail groups. In the past, personal *service had been the main area* of competition, but in following the self-service trend the company was going adrift, losing a sense of direction.

Timpson is number two to the ten times larger British Shoe Corporation group, which *can boast over 2,000 shops.* In 1973, the holding company UDS bought the Timpson group. At this point the 30-year-old John Timpson left the family business, where he had been a junior executive, and became general manager of a division of Swears and Wells. The decision was then made at Timpson's to switch the shoe business from the cosy family market to the high fashion, self-service bandwagon. This was a disastrous move.

Not enough was done to capture the imagination of the younger set, but enough was done to turn away the traditional mother, father and kids clientele.

In 1975, John Timpson was invited to re-join the company as chief executive. Since then, he has triggered a whole range of new management and marketing ideas and can now see his shops successfully catering for both sides of the shoe business.

He concentrated exclusively again on service to the customer, and he re-appraised this in four main areas of operation: shoe quality, dealing with complaints, personal approach to the customer, and design of the shop facilities. Almost every move was a complete innovation, but all stemming from the same theme.

Shoes top the statistics list of complaints lodged each year with the Office of Fair Trading. Timpson decided that, although he did not make the shoes, he was responsible to the customer and had to institute some form of quality control even in the face of such an overwhelming number of manufacturing sources.

Timpson will now only buy shoes that have been tested by the Shoe and Allied Trades *Research Association* (SATRA) and carry a certificate to prove that the shoes will perform the service for which they are designed. They are tested for correct sizing and possible premature failure in wear.

Shoes are so sensitive a purchase, in more ways than one, that Timpson knew there was no way of avoiding complaints. Instead, he decided to make the method of handling complaints a speciality of the house. His company indulged in TV advertising for the first time, and the message was a money-back offer if a customer had good reason to be dissatisfied. He capitalized on his own family name, making this a promise, personally, from John Timpson.

A tight complaints procedure was introduced. A customer was first to approach the shop's manager. If this did not result in a solution satisfactory to the customer, then a set form was available on which the customer wrote his or her complaint and the manager, in front of the customer, wrote his opinion.

The form was then despatched direct to John Timpson, who now receives about 20 per day. He has set up an office, with a manager and secretary, that is responsible for answer*ing each complaint within seven* days at the latest.

In about one third of the complaints, there has obviously been misuse of the shoes, and a special leaflet is sent out with facts about shoe care. In another third of cases, the *money is returned without question.* In the remaining third, there is a 50-50 situation, and half the cash is sent with a letter of explanation.

Greater emphasis was placed on the training of staff, but at the same time the training per*sonnel were reduced in number*, as the courses were simplified and the content made more direct. Jargon about job descriptions was cut out and everything aimed specifically at making the customer feel wanted, assisted and satisfied. Even the *managers were made more* aware of their simple responsibilities.

"The 13 area managers were retitled area sales managers, for, in fact, sales is the sole major sphere in which they can exercise their management *skills", Timpson points out.*

"We decide centrally on investment, profit ratios, staffing levels and all other aspects of management, and the new titles made this crystal clear." Every Saturday night, the shop managers phone their week's turnover figures to the area sales managers, and they in turn phone one of the two regional sales managers, who relay their totals to the sales director—who phones John Timpson. "This all underlines to everyone along the line that turnover matters."

Finally, the layout and decor of the shops themselves had to be redesigned to fit in with the new business philosophy. About £14,000 is being spent at each shop with a modular design that is being applied to up to 80 shops a year. By 1981, every Timpson shop will have the new look.

Sydney Paulden

FINANCIAL NEWS

Lonrho on verge of City 'ton-up' team

The factor most likely to influence markets this week will obviously be Christmas.

However on the economic front, CBI monthly trends, the third quarter gross domestic product figures and the October average earnings index, all out today are considered important indicators.

Although unemployment figures no longer have the same pull and push as in the past, provisional December estimates, due tomorrow will nevertheless be watched closely by the market.

Of the companies reporting, the largest is BOC International with annual results on Wednesday. At the time of its £40m rights issue in September the group forecast a profit of £82m pre-tax, against a previous £73.6m, and company broker Greenwell sees no reason to dis*agree with this figure.*

The strength of the industrial gases business world-wide and a firm pricing structure will more than make up for any shortfall from converting overseas profits into sterling, they say.

Broker James Capel expects Lonrho to join the City's "ton-up" club tomorrow with annual profits of around £115m compared to last year's £93.4m. Although mining and sugar have been flat the group's wide spread of interests cushioned it from any dip in earnings.

Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, chief executive of Lonrho, reporting annual results tomorrow.

On the engineering side Manchester broker Henry Cooke, Lumsden expect an upturn from General Engineering (Radcliffe) and are looking for a half-time profit of around £500,000 this morning compared with a depressed £302,000 last time. With the wire and cable machinery and vacuum pumps business picking up they project their forecast to £1.1m for the full year.

This week

Generating and welding sees *manufacturer Petbow Holdings* likely to turn in £1.35m when it reports interim figures tomorrow, say brokers Grieveson Grant. This compares with a previous £1.29m. The last quarter will be crucial to the group but Grieveson are looking for a full-year profit of just over £3m.

Sotheby Parke Bernet comes under the hammer for the first time as a public company on Wednesday. The forecast from Capel-Cure Myers of £4.6m matches that of the company announced at the time of the offer for sale. Last year the group made a profit of £3.35m pre-tax.

TODAY.—Interims—Bell & Sime, Blyvoor, Brit Steam Specialities Grp, Danae Invest Tst, Emray, General Eng Co (Radcliffe), H. J. Heinz Co, H. & R. Johnson-Richards Tiles, A. Monk & Co, Shaw Carpets, Siebe Gorman, and Turner Curzon. Finals—Caravans Intl, Dubilier, Durban, East Rand Prop Mines, Granada Grp and Vectis Stone Grp.
TOMORROW. — Interims — Alexander Russell, Batleys of Yorkshire, Catalin, Cooper Inds, Danks Gowerton, Equity Consort Invest Tst, FMC, Linfood Hldgs, London Associated Invest Tst, London & Liverpool Tst, Norton & Wright Grp, Nova (Jersey) Knit, Petbow Hldgs, Polly Peck Hldgs, Scottish Homes Invest and R. W. Toothill. Finals—Bluemel Bros, Lloyds & Scottish, Lonrho, and Plaxtons (Scarborough).
WEDNESDAY. — Interims — AGB Research, Edbro (Hldgs), Electric & General Invest Co (amended), Hampton Tst, Lindustries, Negretti & Zambra, R. Paterson & Sons, and Woodrow Wyatt Hldgs. Finals—BOC Ind, Record Ridgeway, and *Sotheby Parke Bernet Grp.*
THURSDAY.—Interims.— Doranakande Rubber Ests, and Wallis Fashion Grp. Finals—Charter Tst & Agency.
FRIDAY.—Interims — Forminster. Finals—Habit Precision.

Alison Mitchell

Williams Lea at peak £715,000

Turning in an excellent second-half, Williams Lea reports record pretax profits of £715,000 (against £336,000) for the 53 weeks to October 2. Sales increased to £7.66m from £5.75m. A final dividend of 162.34p is declared, making a total of 198.10p.

Since 1972, Mr David Donne, chairman, says: the strategy of *the group has been to move out* of periodical and general printing and to concentrate on specialist market areas of printing. In the year there had been some improvement in trading within the printing industry but, in the main, the surge in profits resulted from the specialization policy pursued.

Bass hopes to recoup disappointing start

By Ashley Druker

In reporting its results earlier this month, Bass Charrington showed in its final stage that it faced much the same prob*lems as Whitbread, that is* strikes, a dismal summer and a squeeze on consumer spending. In his annual statement, Mr Derek Palmar, chairman, gives the news that some of these problems are unabated. Sales in the first few weeks of the present term in fact were "severely affected" by the unofficial stoppage in the North-West and were therefore lower than those for the same period in 1976.

On the brighter side, the board is hopeful that because of underlying strength of the group's products, *Bass will be* able "to some extent" to recover from the disappointing start.

Bass's second-half profits last year, covering much the same period as Whitbread's interim, brought in profits, despite the *problems, some 36 per cent* higher, while Whitbread's slipped slightly. Pre-tax profits for the full year were 32 per cent up to £90.4m, mainly, as the board pointed out, because *of loss elimination. Overall Bass* appeared to have continued to outperform its rivals in most of the major markets.

Referring to the report by the Price Commission, Mr Palmar said that unless Bass were able to increase group earnings by operating reasonably and efficiently in the market place, its cash flow would not be sufficient to meet the cost of replacing worn-out assets and to provide for new investment.

If the group was deprived of adequate cash flow it was *inevitable that new investment* would have to be cut, adversely affecting many people. For the year to September 30 1977, the total allocation for capital investment was £75.4m and for the current 12 months, the group has so far allocated some £80.8m.

Cope Allman cautious

Continuing to invest heavily for the 1980s to move profits on to a higher plane, conglomerate Cope Allman International, which met a profits setback in 1975 after a record of consistent growth, puts out a fairly gloomy forecast for the opening stage of 1977-78. Mr Louis Manson, chairman, told the annual meeting that the outcome would be about 15 per cent less than for the corresponding half because of the downturn in consumer spending.

The group's performance in the final six months of the year would depend inevitably on the timing and extent of the expected growth in demand. This view was buttressed to some extent by an increase in order books over the past two weeks in some group activities.

Generally, though taking a cautious view for the next 12 months, CPI was optimistic on the whole of 1978-79. The group's activities are in packaging, engineering, fashion and leisure.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Property and discount houses find new energy to stage comeback

If history teaches anything, there is a mountain of learning in the bitter market experiences of 1973-74. But times change and two of the most deeply scarred sectors during that period have climbed back off the ropes to attract reasoned—if rather more cautious than hitherto—broking support. The key to market's renewed enthusiasm has been a happier interest rate picture.

In its twenty-second annual investment review of the discount houses, Montagu, Loebl, Stanley has picked out Allen Harvey & Ross, Cater Ryder and Smith St Aubyn as the most attractive purchases. As the broker points out the steep climb in interest rates almost wiped out the houses' inner reserves in 1973 but "during the following three years the houses have made a remarkable recovery in profitability as short-term rates have become more volatile due to their greater use by government as an instrument to effect economic policy".

With inner reserves now standing at historically peak levels so, while the sector must face afresh the problem of choosing new trading areas, the broker estimates that they will be able to generate a satisfactory level of profits in 1978 with the help of a further flattening of the yield curve—most likely at the short-end.

Optimism at the long-end must be tempered by the uncertainty surrounding wage settlements and government action to stem monetary growth may hoist short term rates in the next six months. But with attempts to set targets for money supply and balance of payments surplus, MLR is unlikely to double again.

Given dividend freedom, Allen Harvey & Ross and Smith St Aubyn could pay 50 per cent more next year while Cater Ryder could lift its dividend by 40 per cent. In many cases, this level of potential improvement is double that of the rest of the sector.

While the houses' inner reserves were all but wiped out during those traumatic years, the property sector was almost submerged. But, corklike, many of the leading shares are back in favour. There will always be a section of City opinion that will be refused to be bulldozed into a buying spree but with

Brokers' views

estimates of rental growth next year running at around 15 per cent and single figure inflation in prospect, the balance of opinion appears to be swinging in favour of the bulls.

For Quilter Hilton Goodison, Mr N. Z. Gudhka selects Stock Conversion and Investment Trust as a buy on any weakness and recommends outright purchases of London & Provincial Shop Centres (Holdings) and Imry Property Holdings.

The analyst estimates that net assets now stand at around 300p while rent reviews and reversions are currently running at the rate of over £500,000. The balance sheet looks strong and, at the end-March accounting date, long-term debt of £22.9m and £12.3m of short-term borrowings contrasted with book equity assets of £82.9m and £8.6m on deposit.

The full benefits of the interest rate fall and the sale of Cumberland House he thinks, will be reflected in the results from London & Provincial in the year to June next.

Finally, Imry has sold its loss-making Belgian property and is looking for post-tax profits of £150,000 in the year to end-March next from which it expects to pay a dividend of 2.4p per share.

One of the principal economic factors next year will be the Government's attempt to reflate consumer demand. The pump has already been primed by last month's measures and will be boosted further by the next Budget. Smith Keen Cutler, a close observer of the consumer electricals field, believes that "the sensitive response of durables in the recent past to movements in real disposable income indicates considerable demand frustrated by lack of purchasing power".

After efficiency improvements during the lean times, the Birmingham - based broker's electricals analyst, Mr Chris Erwin, feels that the gearing of profits to the prospective upturn in sales has been substantially increased "and we therefore recommend the sector as deserving above average weighting for 1978".

Wilkins & Mitchell—rated as a medium-term recovery situation—BSR, AB Electronics, Ever Ready, Hoover and MK Electric are all tipped but pride of place probably goes to Thorn Electrical which the broker rates as an "outstanding investment among larger companies with above-average growth prospects and the protection of vast cash flows".

In the year to end-March next, SKC predicts a pre-tax profits rise from £103.7m to over £125m stemming from a better export contribution in rentals and price leadership and better export volume loading in domestic appliances.

Ray Maughan

Timing right for US thrust says Hanson Tst

Hanson Trust still believes the timing is right to make the United States its prime investment, says Sir James Hanson, chairman, in his annual review.

The latter stages of a sluggish economy, comparatively low stock market prices and, above all, the fundamental industrial strength of the giant American market "make it vital to press on to complete the present stage of development there". At the same time, selected investments in Britain — both wholly-owned and percentage stakes—are actively under review.

Referring to the three-times covered dividend, he states that as soon as restrictions cease, shareholders' return will be brought into line with earnings growth. Last year showed a 34 per cent increase in earnings to 20.3p a share from a profit up 27 per cent at £24.4m.

Meanwhile the $30m tender offer for Interstate United Corporation, the food service company based in Chicago, had been 70 per cent accepted by the time the review was printed. Acceptances now total some 84.7 per cent and details of the acquisition will be sent to shareholders as soon as possible.

The United States bid underlines the group's characteristic as a patient hunter. This was demonstrated recently by dropping a £25m cash bid for Lindustries for the latest United States acquisition in Interestate.

Australia buoyant but UK carpet sector depresses Homfray

The year to October 1 last for Homfray & Co, carpet manufacturers, showed excellent results as expected from the Australian subsidiaries but underlined one of great difficulty for the carpet industry in Europe.

On total sales down from £41.1m for 15 months to £37.9m for 12 months, pre-tax profit slipped from £2.43m for the longer period to £1.72m for the latest year. Earnings a share were off from 8.6p to 5.4p, and with a final of 1.8124p net, the total dividend is more than halved from 6.25p a share to 3.125p. The chairman and some members of his family made waivers on part of their holdings amounting to £32,000. After extraordinary items, including an exchange loss of £921,000 against a gain of £1.12m, there is a debit of £46,000 compared with one of £49,000.

Generally, though direct exports from the United Kingdom advanced to over £10m profit margins were low. Poor trading also affected the results of the textile subsidiary.

Sec Broadmount urge vote against Chieftain

The chairman of Second Broadmount Trust, in a letter to shareholders, recommends them to vote against the resolutions proposed by Chieftain Trust managers.

The directors, who control 4.56m (46.1 per cent) of the ordinary shares, will be voting against the resolution. The chairman says that the board has for some time been considering the future policy of the company and a similar scheme to that put up by Chieftain has been part of that consideration.

The board has asked Arbuthnot Latham, its financial advisers, to assist them in that task and the implementation of Chieftain's proposals would rule out the consideration of alternative methods by which the market value of the shares in the company may more accurately reflect the underlying net asset value.

Anglo Am Asphalt sees signs of pick-up

Anglo American Asphalt went into retreat in the six months to end-September. On turnover down from £2.55m to £1.98m, pre-tax profit fell from £506,000 to £254,000 with its share of associates coming to £106,000 against £87,000. It pays an interim dividend, however, up from 0.97p net to 1.065p.

The uncertain world economic climate, the board says, resulted in pipeline projects being delayed in the North Sea and overseas in the latter half of the preceding year and continued to affect trading in the latest six months. But now there are signs of increasing activity.

KO Boardman Int down at midterm

On turnover for the half to end-September, down from £11.3m to £10.4m, KO Boardman International turns in a pre-tax profit showing a setback from £611,000 to £488,000 including BPT Leisure for £10,000 (against £137,000 for seven months). Earnings a share declined from 1.34p to 1.06p but the interim payment is a same-again 0.4025p net. Trading in the second half continues much the same as in the opening stage.

Dividend increased as Hunslet go strongly

Engineers Hunslet Holdings went strongly in the year to August 7 last. After all charges, including tax of £622,000 against £517,000, profits increased from £477,000 to £584,000 on turnover lifted from £6.17m to £7.59m. Earnings a share were raised from 39.8p to 48.6p and the total payout from 2.06456p to 2.3059p.

James Crean up by 27pc to £1.1m

James Crean, the Dublin-based bottler and maker of a wide range of other products, reports a rise of 27 per cent to £1.1m for the year to June 30. The results include a full twelve months contribution from Eltham Welding Supplies Group. At the half-way stage pre-tax profits had risen from £278,000 to £503,000. In the meantime the group has continued to trade satisfactorily during the current year.

Tussaud's profits counter to Pearson bid

A strong defensive riposte to the unwelcome bid from S. Pearson & Son comes from the Earl of Ranfurly, chairman of Madame Tussaud's, in forecasting taxable profits for the year to December 31, 1977, increasing some 34 per cent to £1.65m. The board also intends to propose a final dividend for 1977 of 2.025p net, which is some 2½ times the total payment in 1976. Permission has been obtained to pay this on April 4 next.

Madame Tussaud's, he says, is a national institution and as such known to millions both at home and abroad. Overall the offer was "opportunist, inadequate and wholly unacceptable". It was an attempt to buy the group "on the cheap" without any advantages accruing to Tussaud's. The group's profitability over the years, he argues, speaks for itself. There were also ample financial resources for the requirements of its expansion programme.

Over the past ten years Tussaud's had benefited from the tourist boom. With the refurbishing of the exhibition, which had cost well over £1m, the number of visitors had continued to grow. For the first time, over 2m people visited Marylebone Road in 1976 and over 2½m are expected by the end of this year. All its developments had also been financed out of the group's own resources.

Briefly

Init S'vces tops £4m in first half

On a turnover for the six months to end-September raised from £36.6m to £43.6m, Initial Services reports pre-tax profits lifted from £3.48m to £4.46m.

Earnings a share rise from 4p to 4.9p while the interim dividend is hoisted from 1p to 1.25p.

In November the group bought for £2.4m the share capital of Kex Industrial Services, an unquoted company operating mainly in the United Kingdom. Meanwhile Mr N. K. S. Wills becomes deputy chairman following the retirement of Mr W. M. Dravers.

INVESTMENT CO AHEAD
In half to end-September pre-tax profit up from £157,000 to £201,000 and progress should continue in second-half. No interim declared but maximum allowed forecast for year to March 1978.

SUTER ELECTRICAL
Again no dividend for opening half to October 1. On turnover of £799,000 against £626,000, profits after all charges of £27,000 compared with £20,000. Earnings a share 0.81p against 0.63p.

CHEMRING IMPROVES
Pre-tax profit up from £241,000 to £258,000 for year to end-September on turnover of £2.1m against £1.57m. Earnings a share 5.9p against 5.8p and total dividend up from 1.15p to 1.285p.

BRUNNER INVESTMENT
Total income for year to end-November of £1.02m against £879,000 and earnings a share from 3.05p to 3.58p. Total dividend raised from 4.54p gross to 5.38p. Net asset value of 124½p compared with 87p.

J. & H. B. JACKSON
Board says that considering current difficult conditions, general trading level is reasonably satisfactory but it is too early to give any positive predictions.

COSTAIN RECORD
Chairman says results for 1977 should "certainly be a record at all levels", and order book makes him "pretty optimistic" about 1978.

RAND LONDON CORPN
Company reached agreement with Oravi Mining and South African Feldspar to acquire 180,000 shares in Pegmin for R146,000. The shares represent 17 per cent of Pegmin, which becomes a wholly owed sub of R.L.C.

Australia sees new hope for uranium

Mr Fraser's convincing victory in the Australian general election has brought much relief to the country's mining industry and to the uranium sector in particular, but the euphoria with which some uranium investors appear to have greeted the result seems somewhat premature.

Although it seems inconceivable that the uranium will be left in the ground it may yet be some while before the potential mines are developed, and Thursday's decision by the Australian Council of Trade Unions made it clear that the development will not be without a fight.

The ACTU in voting for an immediate ban on all further uranium exports nevertheless recognized that the labour movement is not unified on the issue. Some of the unions most

Mining

directly connected with the uranium industry have other than purely environmental or moral principles to consider.

Hence the decision to poll the members of 23 unions involved in the mining and transport of uranium for backing for the ban. The uranium workers are expected to have voted by the end of next month on the ACTU's recommendations for a total and permanent ban on the handling of nuclear fuel, withdrawing labour and banning supplies to uranium mines.

The ACTU is only one of several powerful groups with which Mr Fraser and the mining companies will have to contend. The environmental lobby has become too well entrenched to be easily ignored, for example.

Mr Fraser is in favour of development of the country's vast uranium resources, but he has yet to lay down a timetable for development. The mining community is hoping that sanction for development will be given before the onset of the dry season in June next year, but that may be somewhat optimistic if Mr Fraser starts running into heavy weather from uranium's opponents.

The Fox Report recommended that development of the industry should be done sequentially and it seems likely that this will indeed be the position, partly because the various mining companies are at different states of readiness.

There is still considerable debate among investors as to which mine will be the first into production but the betting is in favour of the Peko-Wallsend/EZ Industries Ranger prospect, or Queensland Mines' Nabarlek with Pancontinental's Jabiluka next.

Britain would like to see an early development of Australia's uranium and would be an early customer: government officials are talking in terms of taking 1,000 tonnes a year. Since Britain draws uranium from South Africa and Namibia, Australia obviously offers longer-term political stability and reliability of supplies. Being able to rely on Australia would also get the British Government off the rather embarassing hook posed by Rio Tinto-Zinc's Rossing mine in Namibia.

Before there can be any exports from the new mines, Mr Fraser, as he has already made clear, will be seeking safeguards as to the eventual customers along the lines of the safeguards being sought by the United States and Canada (Canada is currently blocking the export of uranium until it has received satisfactory assurances). However, that should not be too much of a problem since it appears that Japan and the EEC are close to reaching agreement with the Canadians.

Pancontinental remains irrepressibly optimistic about its prospects and still apparently contends that it can be in production in 1980, although that must now be an impossible target.

Pancontinental's shares rose £1¼ to £8¾ last Monday on the back of the election result and the company's environmental impact statement. Given that there is still a deal of uncertainty, the share price looks as though it has raced ahead of itself and is due for a setback.

Possibly the best Australian uranium share is Peko since it will ride out the current base metal depression better than EZ, which is facing a very rough year. Queensland, which could get into production very quickly once allowed, has restrictions on the amount of share capital that can be held by non-Australians.

Desmond Quigley

Weekly list of fixed interest stocks

	Latest price	Prev week
Alb & Wilson 7¼ Deb '89-90	70*	70*
All Pty Hldgs 9½ Ln '92-97	73½	70½
All Brew 6¼ Deb '87-92	66½	65
Do 7½ Ln '93-98	67¾	68¼
Ass Bis 7½ Deb '90-95	69¼*	69¼*
AB Foods 5½ Ln '87-2002	23½p	33p
Assoc Elec 6 Deb '78-85	82¾	81½
Do 6¾ Deb '86-91	70½*	70½*
AP Cement 7 Deb '88-93	69	67¾
Do [illegible] Deb '92-97	79¼	74
BICC 7¾ Deb '90-95	69¾*	68½*
BOC Int 3¼ Deb '81-86	74½	74½
Do 9 Tonnage '88	87¾*	87¾*
Bank of Ireland 7 Ln '86-91	63¾	63¾
Barclays Bank 8¼ '86-93	76	75
Barclays Int 7½ Ln '86-91	73	71¾
Bass Char 8¼ Ln '87-92	44½	44¾
Do 7¾ Ln '92-97	70	68
Do 8¼ Deb '87-92	78	77½
Beecham 6¾ Ln '78-83	82	81½
Do 8½ Ln '84-91	77	77
Bibby 10½ Deb '94-99	87*	87*
Bristol Qual 7½ Ln '87-92	60½	60¾
Boots 6 Ln '78-83	79½*	80*
Do 7¾ '84-93	70	70½
Bricom 8 Deb '88-93	66½*	66½*
Brit Am Tob 7 Ln '82-87	83	83
Brit Leyland 6 '98-2003	35	31½
Do 7½ Ln '87-92	45	45
Do 2 Ln '98-2003	37	35½
Brit Petrol 5 Deb '74-79	97	97*
Brit Shoe 7 '80-82	87	86*
Brooke Bond 5½ Ln 2003-08	31¾	30½*
Do 7 2003-08	57¾	57¾
Burmah Oil 6½ Ln '78-81	77½	77½
Do 8¾ a '91-96	58	55¾
Do 7½ Ln '81-86	61*	57¾*
Borlen Gp 9½ Ln '98-2003	70	70
Cadbury-Schweppes 8½ Ln '94-2004	68½	68½
Do 6 '88-93	78	77½
Coats Patons 4½ Ln 2002-07	77½*	77½*
Do 7½ '90-95	66*	64*

	Latest price	Prev week
Courage 6¾ Ln 2004-09	52	53½
Do 8 2nd Deb '89-94	71*	73½
Courtaulds 6¼ Ln '94-96	56½	56½
Do 7 '82-87	78¾	77¾
Do 7¾ Deb '89-94	70¾	70¾
Debenham 6¼ 2nd Deb	60¾	60¾
Do 6½ Ln '86-91	63½	60¾
Do 7¾ Ln 2002-07	61¼*	64
Distillers 7¾ Ln '88-93	68	68½
Dunlop 6¾ Deb '85-90	71	68½
EMI 7 Ln '87-92	65½	65½
English Elec 6 Deb 80-85	79½	79½
Esso 6 Deb '77-80	90	90
Fisons 6¼ 2nd Deb '84-89	68	68
Gallaher 6 Ln '83-85	73½	73½
Gen Acc 7¾ '92-97	68½*	68½*
GEC 7¼ '87-92	70½	70½
Do 7¼ '88-93	72½	71
Glaxo 7½ '85-95	35½p	35½p
Glynwed 10½ Ln '94-99	88¾	87½
GUS 5½ Ln	38¾*	38¾*
Do 7½ Ln '83-88	76	76
Do 8¼ Ln '93-98	68¾*	68*
Hawker Sid 7¼ Deb '87-92	70½*	70½*
ICI 5½ '94-2004	49*	49¾
Do 7¾ Ln '86-91	70	69½
Do 8 '88-93	73½*	71¾
Imperial Gp 4 Ln '75-80	87	87½
Do 7½ 2003-07	65	61
Do 10½ Ln '90-95	88½	87½
Int'nl Services 8 Ln '88-93	71½	71½
Int Stores 7½ Ln 2003-08	63	63
Laporte 10¼ Deb '94-99	87½	87½
Lands Sec 8½ '92-97	71½	71
Lewis's Inv Trust 6½ 2nd '85-90	66	66
Lucas Ind 7¾ '83-88	79	76½
MEPC 8 Ln 2000-05	62	61½
Metal Box 10½ Ln '92-97	90	89½
Midland Bank 10¾ Ln '93-98	92*	89½*
Nat West Bank 9 Ln 1993	81½*	81½*
Rank Hols 6½ Ln '76-81	85½	85½
Do 6½ Ln '85-88	68½	68¼
Reckitt & Col 6¾ Deb '85-90	70¾	71

	Latest price	Prev week
Reed Int 7¾ Deb '90-95	71½*	71½*
Ronold 7¾ Ln '92-97	65	66
Rugby Port Cem 6 '93-98	53*	53*
Sainsbury (J.) 7¾ Deb '87-92	73¾	72¾
Scot Newcastle 5¾ Deb	80¾	80¾
Do 7¾ Deb '89-94	72	72
Slough Est 7½ Deb '85-90	72	73
Smith (W. H.) 5½ Ln	38*	37*
Spillers 7 Deb '78-83	85¾	85
Do 7¾ Deb '84-89	74¾	74¾
Tate & Lyle 7½ Deb '89-94	69	69
Thomson Org 5 Deb '84-94	56½*	56½*
Do 7¾ Ln '87-93	65*	65*
Tilling (T.) 8½ Ln '89-94	74½	73
Tootal 4½ Prf Deb	36½*	36½*
Do 7¾ '85-90	71*	70½*
Truman Ltd 7¼ 2Deb '88-93	72	72
Tube Investmnts 9 Ln '89-94	76*	76*
Turner & Newall 8 Ln '87-92	76¼	76½*
UDS 7½ Deb '85-90	72½	72½
Do 10¼ Deb '89-94	90¼	90¾
Unigate 6½ Ln '91-96	68	68
Do 7¾ Deb '86-91	74*	73½*
Unilever 6¾ Deb '85-88	75¾	75¾
Watney 7¾ Ln '94-99	66	66
Do 8 Ln '90-95	71¾	70¾
Whitbread 7¾ Ln '95-99	62½	61
Do 7¾ Ln '96-2000	64½*	64½*
$ CONVERTIBLES		
Adwest 8 '89-94	139	139
AB Foods 7½ '94 2004	187	187
BPB 7¾ '89-94	144	144
Bowring C. T. 1981	105½	110*
Brit Petrol 6 '76-80	89¾	88½*
Brittains 10½ '91-96	81*	81*
Grand Met 10 '91-96	111	113
Guest Keen 6¼ 1986	81½*	82*
Ind and Gen 4½ '94-99	102½	102½
Lucas Ind 6½ 1980	108½	108½
MEPC 5 '89-94	100	99
Midland Bank 7½ '83-93	84*	86*
Ready Mixed 8½ 1978	106*	106
Romney Tst 4¼ '73-98	80½	80½*
Stock Conv 5½ 1981	250	230
Temple Bar 5½ '85-90	96½	96½

* Ex Dividend

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Wide gulf of opinion exists over oil prices

Efforts in various quarters to achieve a common agreement on how high oil prices should rise, if at all, appeared to have been in vain. With the Opec meeting due to start in Caracas tomorrow there remains wide differences of opinion between the member states.

At one end are the moderates, including Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, pushing for a price freeze, while at the other end are the more extreme countries of Libya, Algeria and Iraq, who want a rise of over 20 per cent.

In the middle are states like Venezuela and Indonesia, chasing a token 5 per cent increase. So, unless some parties give way it seems likely that a two or more tier pricing system will once again be the order of the day.

Whatever the outcome, it is likely to have little immediate effect on the tanker market. The market seems to be settling into its familiar Opec meeting slump stance and with the

Freight report

Christmas and New Year period coming up, the next two or three weeks will likely be quiet.

After the subdued tone of big ship trading in the Gulf in recent weeks, last week brought a little improvement although rates slipped as the week progressed. At the start, a 273,000 tonner was fixed for a Gulf to Brazil trip at worldscale 29. However, bookings in the latter *part of the week dropped at* least one point.

Solio for example chartered the 245,000 ton Sea Splendour for a Gulf-Caribbean trip at worldscale 28. Half a point below this were two vlccs, one taken by Amoco for a Gulf to United Kingdom/continent or Caribbean voyage, and the other fixed by API for a trip to Italy.

Texaco also had a busy week booking ulcc tonnage. The oil *major secured two tankers, one* Norwegian and one Swedish, for 12 months' trading at the rate of 50 cents. A third ulcc was taken for 12 months consecutive voyages at worldscale 20 on a slow steaming basis, and worldscale 22 on full steaming.

David Robinson

G R DAWES HOLDINGS
Liquidator has sent letter to shareholders in company, now in members' voluntary *liquidation*. He says that on December 20 it is proposed to make first distribution of £1 a share and shares' listing on SE be maintained.

April target for renewal of talks on establishing a Common Fund

Although he is obviously keenly disappointed that the negotiating conference on a proposed international fund to stabilize world commodity prices ended in deadlock in Geneva, Mr Gamani Corea, the secretary-general of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad), is clearly not giving up hope.

Last week when an Unctad *committee reviewed what* Mr Corea described as "lagging progress" in talks on the fund, he said that he wanted negotiations to begin again in April.

But he added that there was little prospect of renewed talks succeeding unless governments did their best to achieve a breakthrough on the issues which had brought the negotiating conference to deadlock.

The Geneva conference broke up after Asian, African and *Latin American nations* complained that it was futile to continue because some industrialized states lacked the political will to agree on fundamental features of the proposed fund.

The proposed fund is central to Unctad's integrated programme of international agreements to stabilize markets for basic commodities from which the developing countries derive the bulk of their export earnings.

Mr Corea said that the integrated programme negotiations had fallen behind a timetable drawn up when the talks were launched at Unctad's conference in Nairobi last May.

Under this timetable it was stipulated that preparatory meetings on the 18 commodities *covered by the programme* should be completed by February, 1978, and the negotiation of stabilization agreements by the end of next year.

Mr Corea *said* that the preparatory phase was nowhere near conclusion. Talks on only one commodity, rubber, were approaching the negotiating stage.

On nine other commodities—copper, cotton, iron ore, phosphates, jute, tropical timber, hard fibres, manganese and vegetable oils — preparatory talks are under way but Mr Corea complained that despite *this preparatory work*, "*we are* still far away from getting to grips with the problems of instituting concrete, specific action to stabilize and strengthen markets for these products".

Unison among the coffee producers

Señor Camillo Calazans, the president of the Brazilian Coffee Institute, has said in Rio *de Janeiro that* for *the first* time coffee producers are united in wanting an increase in the reference price (which triggers export quotas) from the present rate of just under 78 cents per lb to $2.10-2.20 with the aim of "stabilizing international coffee prices".

Commodities

He made his statement while accompanying representatives from member countries of the *International* Coffee *Organization* executive board on a visit to Brazilian coffee growing areas.

However, he made two qualifications. First he said that producers will have to reach an agreement with consumers which was acceptable to both sides.

Further, he added that the reference price and the fixing of quotas for exporting countries were not matters which *needed solving immediately*. Only in 1980 would stocks, particularly those in Brazil, be re-established.

Señor Calazans said that he did not think that the *United* States would take a radical stand against the producers' intentions because (referring to the visit) it could make an on-the spot inspection of the reality of Brazil's coffee shortage.

However, the IBC president may be iindulging in wishful thinking on this score. The fact is that statements such as that made by Señor Calazans may be very unwelcome to the United States Administration at a time when the price of coffee is an explosive issue in the country. No attempt is being made at present to get through Congress legislation enabling the United States to sign the International Coffee Agreement.

The legislation will not be *discussed until spring which* means that there is ample time for American public opinion to harden still further

Meanwhile the United States Department of Agriculture, in its third estimate of world coffee production for 1977-78, has lowered its estimate to *69.6 million* 60-kilo bags, a *drop* of 294,000 bags from the second estimate issued in September:

World exportable production—total harvest production less estimated domestic consumption in producing countries—is estimated at 52 million bags, 603,000 down from the September forecast.

The 1977-78 totals are 14 per cent higher than the 1976-77 estimate of 61.2 million bags and 18 per cent higher than the exportable production of 44.1 million bags.

The principal revisions of 1977-78 production by nations (in 1,000 bags) were: Cameroon 1,583 (1,700); Colombia 9,800 (9,300); El Salvador 2,350 (2,700); Honduras 1,134 (950); Ivory Coast 3,600 (3,800); Kenya 1,367 (1,300); Mexico 4,100 (4,400); *Nicaragua* 925 (975); Papua New Guinea 617 (750) and Zaire 1,500 (1,450).

Because of bad weather, high winds and rain, the Mexican Coffee Institute has said that it is unable to make any predictions about its 1977-78 coffee crop, which has mostly not yet been harvested.

Some weeks ago an institute spokesman told Reuters that production of the 1977-78 crop, just then starting, should be 3.8 million to 4 million bags compared with about 3.5 million in 1976-77.

Wallace Jackson
Commodities Editor

Several issues are marked down due to upheaval in key currencies

Prices of many Eurodollar bond issues were marked down about a half point or so last week as the dollar plunged against key currencies in the foreign exchange market, *writes AP-Dow Jones*.

Dealers and underwriters for the most part seemed to be pinning their hopes on an improvement in market conditions in January when the cash flow from Eurobond interest and sinking fund payments is expected to range from $600m to $700m.

In view of the currency turmoil over the past few months, *considerable investment funds* have been placed short-term in Eurodollar certificates of deposit. Bank of England statistics show that in the two banking months ended mid-November, London banks increased the amount of their Eurodollar CD's by $2,200m compared with an increase of only $708m at the similar time a year ago.

Provided the dollar stabilizes in the new year, there should be plenty of funds available *for investment, underwriters* contend.

This view in any case, has formed the basis for the marketing strategy of a $500m 12-year issue of Shell International Finance NV, syndicate sources say. While the 8.25 per cent issue will be priced during the week, the offering has been structured so that much of the marketing effort will be made in January. This is because payment is not required until January 31 and interest will only start accruing from the February 1 coupon date.

However, since the Shell *issue is of record size for a* corporate Eurobond offering, some market participants are doubtful that it can be placed satisfactorily under present

Euromarkets

market conditions. And accordingly, they have engaged in speculative short sales of the issue even before it is priced.

This involves an operation in which dealers offer the bonds to clients and other dealers at a *discount from issue price* without the intention of subscribing to the issue. If the aftermarket price declines as they expect, these operators can purchase the issue at a lower price than they sold it initially and thus make a profit.

Such an operation is possible because the issue will start trading at the end of next week but payment will not be required until the end of January.

According to some sources, the issue has been offered at a discount of more than the 1.5 per cent selling group commission. Naturally, this makes it even more difficult for selling group members to sell the issue and could promote weakness when trading starts.

Unlike many Eurobond issues, the Shell offering has no under*writing group. Instead, the* 11 managers led by Union Bank of Switzerland (Securities), have agreed to purchase the entire amount. The managers *will then reoffer the issue via* a selling group, which has no obligation to take more bonds than can be placed.

However, the uncertainty of *the* short-selling operation is whether the management group can exert enough discipline to ensure that none of the bonds reaches the market at a discount of more than the 1.5 per cent selling group commission.

If so, the short-sellers could lose money.

Sources close to the managers insist that even under the present sloppy market conditions, the Shell Bonds will not be reoffered at big discounts. With three-month Eurodollar rates at around 7.25 per cent offered, *the 8.25 per cent bonds can be* since they can be financed temporarily at a profit until they sold as gradually as need be are sold, it is argued.

Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

	Offer Price	Redmtn Yld
US STRAIGHTS ($)		
Australia 7¼ 1984	96¾	8.15
Australia 8¼ 1992	96¾	8.65
Aust Mining 9¼ 1992	100¾	9.16
Avco 9¾ 1985	101⅛	8.90
Barclays 8½ 1992	98¾	8.65
Bowater 9½ 1992	100	9.25
British Gas 9 1981	103⅛	7.84
Citicorp 6¾ 1980	98	7.64
Citicorp 7 1981	97⅞	7.70
CECA 8¼ 1989	97⅞	8.56
CECA 8¾ 1997	99	8.86
DSM 8¼ 1987	97¼	8.68
Elf Aquitaine 8½ 1986	98¾	8.57
EIB 8¾ 1987	98¼	8.52
EEC 7¾ 1984	97¼	8.31
Fisons 8¾ 1992	97⅛	9.06
Gotaverken 7¾ 1983	99	7.89
Gotaverken 8¼ 1987	96¼	8.71
Hydro Quebec 9 1992	98	9.25
ICI 8¼ 1987	98¾	8.44
IU O/seas 8¾ 1987	97¾	9.11
Light-Servicos 9 1983	98⅛	9.43
MacMillan Bloed 9 1992	101⅛	8.81
Midland Int 8¾ 1992	99¼	8.84
NCB 8 1987	95¾	8.67
Nat West 9 1986	103¼	8.46
New Zealand DFC 7¾ 1984	97¼	8.31
Nippon Fudosan 8 1981	100¾	7.93
Occidental 8¾ 1987	99	8.91
Occidental 9¾ 1981	104⅛	8.33
Offshore Mining 8¼ 1985	98¾	8.48
Quebec 9 1995	97¾	9.33
Rank Hovis 9 1992	97¾	9.29
R. J. Reynolds 7⅞ 1982	99¼	7.70
Sandik 9½ 1986	101¼	9.24
Statsforetag 7¾ 1982	98¼	8.22
Sundstrand 8¾ 1987	100	8.75
Sweden 7⅞ 1982	98¾	7.97
Sweden 8¾ 1987	97¾	8.68
Tauernautobahn 8¼ 1987	99	8.40
Walter Kidde 8½ 1985	98⅛	8.78
FLOATING RATE NOTES		
Andelsbanken 7 1984	96¾	7.64
CCF 6⅛ 1983	99	6.72
IBJ 6¼ 1982	99½	6.57
LTCB 6⅛ 1982	99⅞	6.66
OKB 6¼ 1985	99⅞	6.64
Soc Gen 7 9/16 1984	97¾	8.01
CANADIAN DOLLARS		
Avco 9¼ 1982	100¾	9.40
BM-RT 8¾ 1982	99	9.03
Ford 8¼ 1984	99⅞	8.53
British Columbia MFA 9 1997	100⅞	8.93
Rank 9¼ 1982	101½	9.09
Walter Heller 9½ 1984	101¾	9.21
DEUTSCHE MARKS		
CFP 6½ 1.7.84	101⅛	6.28
ICI 6¾ 1.5.87	104⅛	6.11
New Zealand 6¼ 1.5.84	104¾	5.43
Phym 6¼ 1.9.89	101⅛	6.10
Quebec Hydro 6¼ 16.8.87	100¾	6.39
US $ CONVERTIBLES	**Offer Price**	**Conv Prem**
American Express 4¼ '87	82⅛	33.78
Beatrice Foods 4½ 1992	96⅛	10.29
Beatrice Foods 6¾ 1991	118⅛	6.04
Beecham 6¾ 1992	99	3.06
Borden 6¾ 1991	111⅛	4.25
Carnation 4 1988	81	36.50
Chevron 5 1988	137	−0.73
Eastman Kodak 4½ 1988	87	63.97
Fairchild Camera 5¾ 1991	84⅛	61.88
Ford 5 1988	86⅛	6.70
Ford 6 1986	97⅛	11.23
Gen Electric 4¼ 1987	84	39.14
Gillette 4¾ 1987	77⅛	37.02
Gould 5 1987	114⅛	0.84
Gulf & Western 5 1988	79	30.84
Honeywell 6 1986	88	133.37
ICI 6¾ 1997	97	25.51
INA 6 1997	95¼	10.32
Inchcape 6¾ 1992	104	5.51
ITT 4¾ 1987	80⅛	46.79
J. R. McDermott 4¾ '87	170	−1.17
Mitsui Real Estate 6 1992	114	8.39
J. P. Morgan 4¼ 1987	97	1.67
Nabisco 5¼ 1988	100⅛	4.91
J. C. Penney 4½ 1987	78⅛	86.40
Revlon 4¼ 1987	126	3.33
Reynolds Metals 5 1988	86	28.85
Sperry Rand 4¼ 1988	86⅛	28.19
Squibb 4¼ 1987	87	102.95
Sumitomo Electric 6 1992	102	10.42
Texaco 4¾ 1988	79⅛	30.90
Un Bnk of Switz 4½ '87	132¼	3.60
Warner Lambert 4¼ 1987	83¼	54.16
Xerox Corp 5 1988	78¼	153.26

Source: Kidder Peabody Securities Limited

More share prices

The following will be added to the London and Regional Share Price List tomorrow and will be published daily in Business News:

Mining

South Crofty

Heurtey in Tunisia

Heurtey Industries, a French engineering group, has set up a Tunisian subsidiary, Tunisie Engineering SA, in association with three Tunisian concerns—Banque de *Developpement* Economique de Tunisie, Banque Nationale de Tunisie and Société Centrale Pour l'Equipement du Territoire (SCET) Tunisie

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	7½%
Barclays Bank	7½%
Consolidated Crdts	7½%
First London Secs	7½%
C. Hoare & Co	*7½%
Lloyds Bank	7%
London Mercantile	7%
Midland Bank	6¾%
Nat Westminster	7½%
Rossminster Acc's	7½%
Shenley Trust	9½%
TSB	7%
Williams and Glyn's	7¼%

* 7 day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under 4½%, up to £25,000, 4¾%, over £25,000, 5%.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
62-63 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8HP Tel: 01 638 8651
The Over-the-Counter Market

Capitalisation £000's	Company	Price last Friday	Change on week	Gross Div (p)	Yld %	P/E
2,050	Airsprung Ord	41	−1	4.2	10.0	7.8
370	Airsprung 18½% CULS	148	−2	18.4	12.5	—
900	Armitage & Rhodes	36	—	3.3	9.2	15.3
4,368	Bardon Hill	143xd	—	12.0	8.4	9.8
2,658	Deborah Ord	99	−2	5.1	5.2	8.0
432	Deborah 17½% CULS	216	—	17.5	8.1	—
20,803	Frederick Parker	144	−2	11.5	8.0	7.0
1,250	Jackson Group	50	−2	5.0	10.0	5.9
14,906	James Burrough	108	—	6.0	5.6	9.9
3,162	Robert Jenkins	310xd	−10	27.0	8.6	5.2
2,991	Twinlock Ord	14	—	—	—	—
1,910	Twinlock 12% ULS	70	−2	12.0	17.1	—
3,003	Unilock Holdings	69xd	—	7.0	10.1	8.5
5,432	Walter Alexander	86	−1	6.4	7.4	6.4

Unit Trust Prices—change on the week

FT Index change on week 471.9 − 14.0 (2.9%)

Authorized Unit Trusts

[illegible]

Offshore and International Funds

[illegible]

Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 12. Dealings End, Dec 30. § Contango Day, Jan 3. Settlement Day, Jan 11

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock outstanding £	Stock		Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Int only Yield	Gross Red Yield
1500m	Treas	9% 1978	100⅝	-1/16	8.946	6.284
500m	Treas	10½% 1978	102⅝	+⅛	10.208	5.288
400m	Exch	5% 1976-78	98¼	+⅛	5.088	5.868
1200m	Treas	11½% 1979	104¾	+¼	10.977	7.364
600m	Treas	3% 1979	96⅜	+1⅛	3.121	5.358
370m	Elec	4¼% 1974-79	96⅞	+⅛	4.405	6.370
1200m	Treas	10½% 1979	103¾	+¼	10.131	6.277
280m	Elec	3½% 1976-79	95¾	+1	3.658	5.892
1000m	Treas Cnv	9% 1980	101½	+¼	8.863	8.343
1100m	Treas	9½% 1980	101⅝	+⅛	9.335	8.088
265m	Treas	3½% 1977-80	94¼	+¼	3.716	6.626
400m	Fund	5¼% 1978-80	95¾	+⅝	5.481	7.149
800m	Exch	13% 1980	109⅛	+⅛	11.912	9.380
600m	Treas	11½% 1981	105½	...	10.896	9.406
488m	Treas	3½% 1979-81	89¼	+⅛	3.894	7.152
800m	Treas	9¾% 1981	101⁵⁄₁₆	+⅛	9.647	9.357
800m	Exch	9¼% 1981	99⅝	+⅛	9.518	9.555
400m	Exch	3% 1981	87¾	..	3.419	6.837
600m	Exch	12¼% 1981	109⅝	+⅛	11.068	9.640
861m	Treas	8½% 1980-82	98	...	8.667	9.108
400m	Treas	3% 1982	86	..	3.487	6.930
600m	Treas	14% 1982	114½	+⅛	12.226	9.744
800m	Treas	8¼% 1982	95½	+¼	8.637	9.304
800m	Exch	9¼% 1982	99	-⅛	9.348	9.587
600m	Exch	3% 1982	84½	+1⅛	3.589	6.631
600m	Treas	12% 1983	112	+⅛	11.030	9.787
800m	Treas	9½% 1983	97⅞	...	9.428	9.710
400m	Fund	5½% 1982-84	88⅞	...	6.189	7.837
600m	Treas	8½% 1984-86	95	+⅛	8.981	9.384
559m	Fund	6½% 1985-87	85¾	+⅛	7.657	8.919
500m	Treas	7¾% 1985-88	91¼	+⅛	8.795	9.503
1052m	Treas	3% 1978-88	66	+⅛	4.538	7.776
602m	Treas	5% 1986-89	73½	+1⅛	6.806	8.788

[illegible]

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

[illegible]

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

[illegible]

FOREIGN STOCKS

[illegible]

DOLLAR STOCKS

[illegible]

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

[illegible]

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

[illegible]

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A — B

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div pence	Div yld %	P/E
25.2m	AAH	109	-1	8.3	7.6	8.0
3,060,000	AB Electronic	110	+1	7.6	6.9	7.8
700,000	AC Cars	36	..	1.5	4.2	8.7
4,961,000	AGB Research	78	+2	3.2	4.1	12.9
60.9m	APV Hldgs	220	-2	8.1	3.7	8.8
11.2m	Aaronson Bros	58	-8	2.8	4.8	6.8
1,723,000	Acrow	108	..	3.8	3.4	12.2
50.0m	Do A	90	-4	3.6	4.0	10.2
5,963,000	Adda Int	35½	+1	0.8	2.3	..
20.3m	Adwest Group	250	+5	15.2	6.1	6.9
976,000	Aeron'l & Gen	61	+1	3.5	5.7	10.9
12.7m	Airfix Ind	49	-3	4.6	9.3	6.5
117.5m	Albright & W	190	+1	8.5	6.5	6.5
6,960,000	Alcan 10½%	£97	+1	1050	12.1	..
14.5m	Do 9% Cnv	£131	+6	900	7.4	..
15.7m	Alginate Ind	288	+3	19.7	6.8	10.7
11.0m	Allen E. Balfour	56	-3	6.6	11.7	..
1,341,000	Allen W. G.	55	..	3.9	7.0	6.1
34.9m	Allied Colloids	88	-2	2.3	2.8	14.8
5,130,000	Allied Insulators	57	-1	5.3	9.3	6.9
1,180,000	Allied Plant	22	..	1.8	8.1	7.0
9,079,000	Allied Polymer	48 h	...	3.4	7.0	23.5
15.5m	Allied Retailers	182	-3	12.1	6.7	8.7
4,450,000	Alpine Hldgs	44½	+1½	2.5	5.6	26.8
16.9m	Amal Metal	270	..	21.5	7.9	8.3
35.9m	Amal Power	118	-5	8.0	6.9	6.5
4,421,000	Amber Day	36½	..	2.9	8.0	5.2

[illegible]

C — E

[illegible]

F — H

[illegible]

I — L

[illegible]

M — N

[illegible]

O — S

[illegible]

T — Z

[illegible]

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

SHIPPING

[illegible]

MINES

[illegible]

OIL

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

RUBBER

[illegible]

TEA

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div pence	Div yld %	P/E
[illegible]						
7,248,000	McLeod Russel	180	+9	15.2	8.4	..
1,309,000	Moran	400	..	22.7	5.7	..
640,000	Surmah Valley	80	..	10.0	12.5	..
7,282,000	Warren Plant	173	+5	20.0	11.6	..

MISCELLANEOUS

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div pence	Div yld %	P/E
32.6m	Algoma Cen Rly	£10¼	+3/16	25.0	2.5	16.5
2,728,000	Calcutta Elec	64	+1	13.0	20.3	..
——	E Surr Wtr 4.9%	£48½	+1	490	10.1	..
1,360,000	Essex Wtr 3.5%	38	• +½	500	13.2	..
28.5m	Gt Nthn Telo	£51	-1	193	3.8	11.4
148.7m	Imp Cont Gas	368	-19	14.2	3.9	15.0
——	Mid Kent Wtr	£36	• -2	500	13.9	.
577,000	Milford Docks	74	-4	4.1	5.6	8.1
2,236,000	Nigerian Elec	215	+12	17.3	8.0	..
——	Sunderlnd Wtr	£37½	..	538	14.4	..

• Ex dividend. a Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. e Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid for company. k Pre-merger figures. n Forecast earnings. p Ex capital distribution. r Ex rights. s Ex scrip or share split. t Tax free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. .. No significant data.

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES

The Times Share Indices for 16.12.77 (base date June 2, 1964 original base date June 2, 1950):—

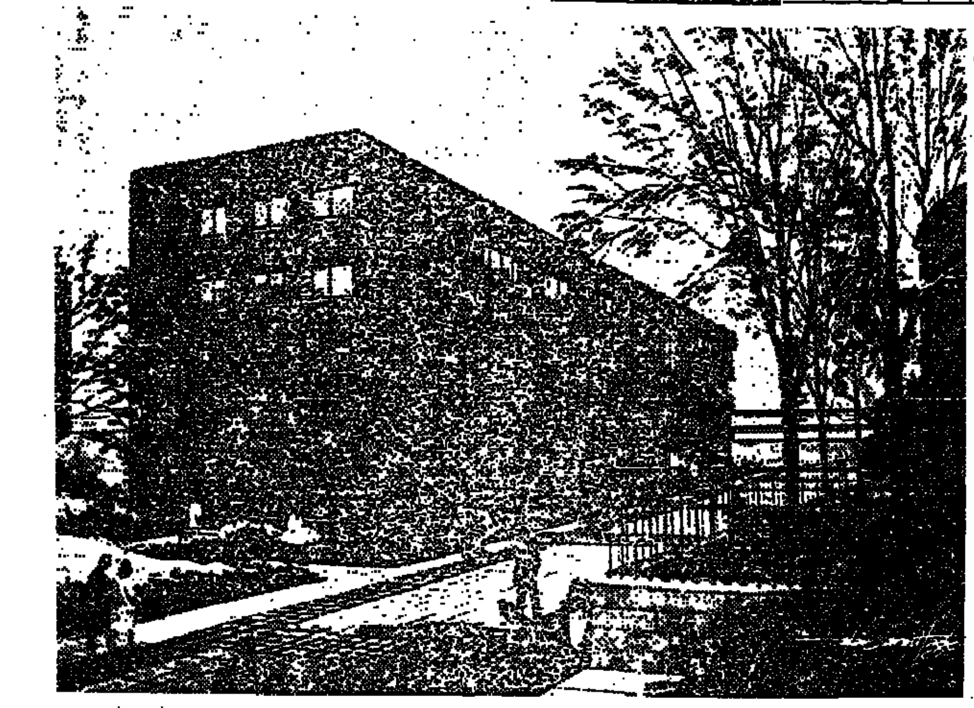
	Index No. Latest	Div. Yield %	Earnings Yield %	Chnge over week
The Times Industrial Share Index	208.15	6.56	12.11	-5.00
Largest Coys.	205.63	6.32	11.34	-5.38
Smaller Coys.	188.94	7.34	14.58	-3.14
Capital Goods	228.76	6.06	14.21	-3.74
Consumer Goods	215.22	6.93	11.65	-4.25
Store Shares	179.72	6.17	7.72	-4.97
Largest financial shares	232.05	5.50	—	-3.78
Largest financial and industrial shares	207.14	6.18	—	-5.25
Commodity shares	211.79	5.66	11.36	+0.25
Gold Mining shares	273.89	9.36	17.84	-7.45
Industrial debenture stocks	94.74	6.25*	—	+0.64
Industrial preference stocks	61.65	11.37*	—	-0.66
3½% War Loan	36	9.84*	—	+½

A record of The Times Industrial Share Indices is given below:—

	High	Low
All-time	222.98 (14.09.77)	60.18 (12.12.74)
1977	222.98 (14.09.77)	151.29 (12.01.77)
1976	171.85 (05.05.76)	115.85 (27.10.76)
1975	156.92 (19.11.75)	61.42 (06.01.75)
1974	136.18 (25.02.74)	60.18 (12.12.74)
1973	189.33 (12.01.73)	120.89 (14.12.73)
1972	198.47 (15.08.72)	174.48 (10.01.72)

* Flat interest yield.

Commercial Property



Artist's impression of Commerce House, Leeds, due for completion in April.

Market in provincial offices

The provincial office market has been experiencing varied fortunes in recent times, but new schemes continue to arise if somewhat sporadically. Among the more buoyant markets is that in Leeds, where the topping-out took place last week of Commerce House, in Wade Lane.

Estaline Ltd is the development company, which is owned jointly by Henry Lax (Developments) Ltd, and Marshalls of Elland Ltd, who are the contractors for the building.

Completion is due next April. Design is by The Mason Richards Partnership and the building, with red brick elevations, will provide about 23,000 sq ft on five floors. Just over 5,000 sq ft has been prelet to Leeds Chamber of Commerce, which was represented by Weatherall Hollis and Gale.

Simon Houlston and Partners acted for Estaline in the letting and the funding of the scheme. Both agents have been retained together with Healey and Baker for letting the remaining 18,000 sq ft at £4 a sq ft.

Also in Leeds, a central freehold office investment has been sold by tender for a figure believed to be approaching £450,000. The property is Nos 6 and 7 South Parade and has a floor area of 11,000 sq ft. The sale was through Mawson and Walton, Stewart Newiss and Weatherall Hollis and Gale.

The buyers were the Co-operative Insurance Society, which was represented by Bernard Thorpe and Partners. Present income is £13,432 a year, but some 4,500 sq ft is vacant. This accommodation will be modernized and offered for letting through Bernard Thorpe and Partners.

In Glasgow, Commercial Union Properties has completed the refurbishment of its office building at 90 St Vincent Street.

Modernization work included the renovation of the Portland stone front as well as the removal of partition walls and installation of central heating and new lifts.

Architects for the scheme were the Covell, Matthews Partnership and in its new guise the building provides 35,000 sq ft of offices on ground and seven upper floors, as well as two shop units.

Terms have been agreed for the letting of one of the shops, and the first floor of some 5,000 sq ft to Barclays Bank International. The remaining 30,000 sq ft of offices is available at £4.10 a sq ft. Letting is through Richard Ellis.

Nearer London, Permanent Land Ltd has completed the letting of Chiltern House, a new office development at 54-56 High Street, Harrow on the Hill, to Dymo Graphic Systems UK Ltd.

It is understood that a rent of £36,000 a year exclusive was obtained. The building provides 6,700 sq ft of space, including an executive suite of some 800 sq ft.

Hillier Parker May and Rowden and Corbett Altman and Company acted for Permanent Land and Dymo Graphic was represented by Henry Davis and Company, who have been instructed to dispose of that company's 3,500 sq ft office building in Rectory Lane, Edgware.

The development was funded on a speculative basis by BBA Pension Fund Trustees Ltd, advised by Hillier Parker May and Rowden, and the completed development has been taken into their portfolio.

Continuing the trend for large retailers to act as their own developers, Fine Fare have started work on the construction of a new district shopping centre of 50,000 sq ft at Whinfield, Darlington.

The plans provide for a supermarket of 43,000 sq ft gross, six shops, car parking and a filling station. It is expected that the centre will be open for trading in time for Christmas next year.

Fine Fare was selected by Darlington borough council earlier this year from among a number of companies invited to submit proposals. Hillier Parker May and Rowden have been advising the council and Fine Fare was represented by J. M. Wright Associates.

A new industrial or warehouse estate is planned for Farnborough, where Marlborough Property Holdings has acquired the former Toni works, in Hawley Lane, from Gillette Industries. Marlborough will shortly begin the redevelopment of the site as a new warehouse and industrial complex to be known as the Hawley Trading Estate.

It will comprise a total of 75,000 sq ft in units from 8,300 sq ft. Two units are already under offer. Rents are not yet quoted but are expected to be about £2.25 a sq ft. Hampton and Sons, with Pearson Williams, acted for Marlborough in the acquisition of the site and are letting agents.

More than half the space on the Stadium Industrial estate in Oxford Road, Reading, the former GRA site, has now been let.

The scheme, being carried out by Builders' Amalgamated, provides a total of 105,000 sq ft and new tenants include Tate & Lyle, Reading Industrial Engines and Ramar Dresses, who were represented by Grant and Partners. Three final units totalling 50,000 sq ft are available at quoted rents of £1.65 a sq ft. Hampton and Sons, who acquired the site for the developers, are agents.

Criticism of the inflexibility of some institutions and local authorities towards industrial development is contained in the annual report published by Edward Erdman and Company.

Industrial development, it says, is reliant on institutional finance but in the past the buyers, managers and trustees have not balanced their portfolios to any large extent with a quota of good industrial investments.

There has, it says, been a tendency to imitate each other and adhere to rigid and inflexible requirements which generally have no bearing whatsoever on the needs of this sector.

Small units have proved to be more readily lettable, and relettable, but the funds have tended to prefer the larger unit schemes because of lesser management problems and the quality of tenants attracted.

Similarly, local authorities appear to be accepting the need for enterprise in the release of land for development schemes which will provide employment in their areas.

Again, however, many authorities are too inflexible, insisting on development for purely industrial processes when the demand is for warehousing, which still provides much needed employment. Also, they readily put sites out to a general tender rather than choosing a safe, experienced developer with a proven track record.

Gerald Ely

Educational & Public Appointments

AUSTRALIA

Applications are invited for the following posts, for which applications close on the dates shown. SALARIES (unless otherwise stated) are as follows: Professor $A30,786; Research/Postdoctoral Fellow $A14,632-$A19,139; Lecturer $A14,632-$A19,262; Senior Tutor $A12,593-$A14,445. Further details, conditions of appointment for each post, method of application and application form, where applicable, may be obtained from The Association of Commonwealth Universities, (Appts), 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF.

University of Adelaide
LECTURER IN LAW
(Ref. 7.1). Applicants should have, preferably, an Honours degree in law and postgraduate, academic or professional experience, or both. Duties will include teaching in undergraduate courses and the successful applicant will be expected to participate in research activities.
31 January, 1978.

Monash University Melbourne
CHAIR IN POLITICS
Applications are invited for appointment to the third chair in the Department of Politics. The Department wishes to appoint in one of two principal fields: The History of Political Thought; Modern Government and Institutions.
The successful candidate will be distinguished both by his international standing and by the breadth of his scholarly interests in the field of politics.
17 March, 1978.

University of Melbourne
PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK
Applications are invited for the Professorship of Social Work, which has become vacant following the retirement of Professor V. S. Lewis. The professor should be distinguished in social work education and in research in social work or other related disciplines.
6 March, 1978.

CHAIR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Applications are invited for appointment to a new Chair of Business Administration in the Graduate School of Business Administration which forms part of the Faculty of Economics and Commerce.
28 February, 1978.

Australian National University
Research School of Biological Sciences
RESEARCH FELLOW DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY
A Research Fellow is required in the Department of Developmental Biology to continue work concerning the enzyme systems involved in cytokinin metabolism and biosynthesis. Cytokinins are a group of plant hormones and are adenine derivatives. The successful applicant must have had extensive experience in the purification and characterization of enzymes and other proteins from plants and micro-organisms. Experience in the following areas would also be desirable: (1) chromatography of metabolites, particularly cytokinins, by high pressure liquid chromatography; (3) chemical synthesis of organic compounds.
27 January, 1978.

RESEARCH FELLOW DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY
Two Research Fellowships are available in the Department of Environmental Biology (Head: Professor R. O. Slatyer). Current work centres on: Environmental Plant Physiology; with special reference to photosynthesis and water relationships: the structure and function of biological communities with special reference to species-species interactions.
Applicants should have a Ph.D. degree, preferably with postdoctoral experience.
27 January, 1978.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS
Studies are being undertaken on mitochondrial DNA structure and coding function, nuclear mitochondrial genome interaction in the biogenesis of mitochondria and the mechanism of the petite mutation in yeast. These studies would be greatly facilitated if hybrids between different yeast species could be obtained.
Applicants would be expected to participate in studies on hybridizing yeast species and to contribute to research on mitochondrial DNA structure and function.
27 January, 1978.

RESEARCH FELLOW DEPARTMENT OF POPULATION BIOLOGY
The successful applicant should possess a Ph.D. degree and have research experience in DNA characterisation as well as appropriate biochemical techniques.
Candidates have the opportunity to develop a programme on the function of repetitive DNA in eucaryotes.
Current research in the group involves the DNA of the chromosomally highly variable endemic rodents, genetic analyses of heterochromatin in Drosophila and satellite DNA/recombination studies on Orthoptera.
27 January, 1978.

University of Queensland
SENIOR TUTORS IN PHYSIOTHERAPY
(2 positions)
Applicants should have physiotherapy qualifications registrable in Queensland and have had clinical experience.
20 February, 1978.

OFFICE MANAGER
(Male or Female)

The Civil and Public Services Association, a Trade Union representing over 200,000 members in Civil Service and Public Sector employment, seeks an Office Manager to be responsible for personnel and common services work for approximately 170 staff.

The salary scale is £4,365 to £5,165 (plus supplements of £313.20 p.a. and 5%). Non-contributory superannuation. Annual leave 30 days plus usual privilege holidays.

Application forms from Mr J. Raywood, Assistant General Secretary, 215 Balham High Road, London SW17 7BQ, will provide further information. Closing date for receipt of completed forms is 20th January, 1978.

University of Western Australia
PERTH

Applications for appointment as SENIOR TUTOR OR LECTURER IN SOCIAL AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE in the Department of Medicine are invited from graduates with experience in Survey design, implementation and analysis, to supervise project work in the present undergraduate course in Social and Preventive Medicine. Opportunities will exist for the successful applicant to pursue personal research interests and/or to participate in the research of the Department, which includes epidemiology of cancer, cardiovascular disease, perinatal mortality and morbidity, industrial lung disease, the Busselton Population Studies and aspects of Health Service research and planning. Applicants should hold a Masters or Doctoral degree. A medical qualification is not necessary.

This will be a temporary appointment for up to one year and the appointee will be expected to assume duty as early as possible in 1978. Salary ranges: Senior Tutor $A12,593-$A14,445 p.a.; Lecturer, $A14,632-$A19,262 p.a. The appointee will be entitled to an allowance of up to $A1,950 towards appointment expenses. Applications in duplicate stating full personal particulars, qualifications and experience should reach the Staffing Officer, University of Western Australia, Nedlands, Western Australia, 6009, by 21 January, 1978. Candidates should request three referees to write immediately to the Staffing Officer.

Kenyatta University College
KENYA

Applications are invited for the post of ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR: DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY. Applicants should be holders of PhD and must have substantial lecturing and research experience at University level. Ability and enthusiasm to plan, initiate and direct new programmes for both Undergraduates and Graduates are essential qualifications. Experience in a Teacher-Education institution will be an added advantage. Salary £K3,600-£K4,128 pa (£K1=£1.34 sterling). (Salaries under review.) The British Government may supplement salaries by £4,332 pa (sterling) for married appointees or £3,042 pa (sterling) for single appointee (reviewed annually and normally free of all tax) and provide children's education allowances and holiday visit passages. Terms of service include subsidised housing, membership of SSSF or FSSU and a non-contributory medical scheme and family passages. Detailed application (2 copies) including curriculum vitae and naming 3 referees should be sent air mail to Registrar, Kenyatta University College, PO Box 43844, Nairobi, Kenya by 26 January 1978. Applicants resident in UK should also send one copy to Inter-University Council, 90/91 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0DT. Further particulars are available from either address.

WANTED FOR APRIL Bursar for Boys' boarding preparatory school in Berkshire. House available. Possible help with education of children. Write with full curriculum vitae and names of two referees to Box 0304 K, The Times.

University of the South Pacific
FIJI

Applications are invited for the post of READER IN EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY (Post 77/59). Applicants should hold at least a masters degree in education or psychology. Preference will be given to those with a doctorate. The applicants' graduate study or postgraduate work should have included considerable experience in one or more of the following areas: Human Resource Development, Social Systems Analysis, Cross-cultural Psychology, Learning Theory. They should show evidence of educational or social science research methodology, including psychometrics, research design data processing. The appointee will be expected to teach some or all the following introductory courses: Educational Psychology, Child Development, Educational Assessment, and to assist in the general supervision of secondary student teachers. As this is a senior position, applicants are expected to have held responsible positions at University level. Salary scales: Reader $F12,650-$F13,850 pa (£1 sterling=$F1.62). The British Government may supplement salary by £2,172 pa (sterling) for married appointee or £823 pa (sterling) for single appointee (supplement normally free of all tax and reviewed annually) and provide children's education allowances and holiday visit passages. In addition the University provides 15 per cent gratuity, superannuation contribution, appointment allowance partly furnished accommodation at a maximum rental at present of 15 per cent of salary. Appointments will be for a contract period of three years and will be renewable by mutual agreement. Candidates should send THREE COPIES of their curriculum vitae, quoting post reference and full personal particulars, and names and addresses of three referees to the Registrar, the University of the South Pacific, PO Box 1168, Suva, Fiji. Applicants resident in the UK should also send 1 copy to Inter-University Council, 90/91 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0DT. Closing date 15 January 1978. Further particulars can be obtained from either address.

University of Oxford
HERTFORD COLLEGE
FELLOWSHIP IN LAW

The college proposes to elect an official Fellow and Tutor in Law from 1st October, 1978. The Fellowship will be associated with a University Lectureship (C.U.F.). Further particulars may be obtained from the Principal.

The closing date for applications is 31st January, 1978.

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE seeks Administrator/Academic, starting May/June with Ph.D. and U.S. University experience. Please send c.v. to Box 0155 K, The Times.

University of Juba
SUDAN

Applications are invited for the following posts in Language Teaching:
English Language Centre
1. DIRECTOR—Teacher training.
2. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR—Tests and measurement, preparation of course materials.
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Arabic Language
2. PROFESSORS/READERS/SENIOR LECTURERS/LECTURERS.

Salary scales: Professor, £S4,135 p.a.; Reader, £S3,625 p.a.; Senior Lecturer, £S2,465-£S3,000 p.a.; Lecturer, £S1,600-£S2,400 p.a.; Chief Technician, £S1,450-£S1,825 p.a.; Senior Technician, £S1,250-£S1,500 p.a.; Technician, £S950-£S1,200 p.a. (£1 sterling=£S0.63). The British Government may supplement salaries of appointees to all grades except that of Technician in range £2,982-£3,558 p.a. (sterling) for married appointees or £1,410-£1,980 p.a. (sterling) for single appointees (reviewed annually and normally free of all tax) and provide children's education allowances and holiday visit passages. Family passages, various allowances, superannuation scheme, annual overseas leave. Salary scales and rates of supplementation are under review. Detailed applications (2 copies) including curriculum vitae and naming 3 referees should be sent by airmail by 20 January, 1978, to the Secretary General, University of Juba, P.O. Box 82, Juba, Sudan. Applicants resident in U.K. should also send one copy to Inter-University Council, 90/91 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0DT. Further details can be obtained from either address.

New Zealand University of Canterbury Christchurch
LECTURESHIP IN OPERATIONS RESEARCH

Applications are invited for the above-mentioned position in the Department of Economics. Applicants may have qualifications in any of the main areas of Operations Research. Consideration may be given to a visiting or temporary appointment.

The salary for Lecturers is on a scale from NZ$10,585 to $13,969 per annum.

Particulars, including information on travel and removal allowances, study leave, housing and superannuation, may be obtained from the Association of Commonwealth Universities (Appts.), 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF. Applications close on 5 February, 1978.

PHYSICS/CHEMISTRY TEACHER

BLUNDELL'S SCHOOL, TIVERTON Required for April or September 1978, a teacher of Physics and Chemistry to O Level. Some teaching to A level might be available for a suitably qualified applicant. Help with games is important. Non-residential, but rooms available for unmarried man. Applications, with names and addresses of 3 referees, to the Head Master, Blundell's School, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 4DN.

The University of Papua, New Guinea
(PORT MORESBY)

Applications are invited for the following posts to be taken up in July, 1978.

LECTURER/SENIOR LECTURER IN EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. The applicant will be required to conduct in-service courses at both diploma and degree levels designed to provide experience in the theory and practice of Educational Administration for educators who hold or aspire to positions carrying administrative responsibilities. Applicants should possess postgraduate qualifications and wide experience in Educational Administration, and a willingness to travel extensively within Papua New Guinea. Further details may be obtained from the Chairman of the Department of Education.

LECTURER IN PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY. The applicant will be expected to teach courses at introductory and advanced levels. Preference will be given to candidates with interests in biogeography, climatology, or applied physical geography. The appointee will be required to contribute to courses in biogeography, physical geography, and man and his environment. Ability to assist in courses in geographical techniques, and some experience in aerial photograph interpretation, are desirable. Experience in the Pacific or South-east Asia will be an advantage. There are opportunities for fieldwork, and equipment includes a 4-wheel-drive vehicle, boat, and laboratory facilities.

SALARIES: Senior Lecturer: K14,044-K15,741 p.a. Lecturer Grade 3: K10,004-K13,825 p.a. In addition, an allowance of K1,300 per annum if single is payable. An extra K1,040 Marriage Allowance and K156 per child Child Allowance may also be payable. Applications should include detailed curriculum vitae, a recent small photograph and the names and addresses of three referees. Conditions include provision of housing, annual leave fares, study leave and F.S.S.U. In some cases it may be possible to make an appointment on secondment. Further details and the conditions of appointment are available from the Secretary, Box 4820, University P.O., Papua New Guinea, with whom applications close on 20 January, 1978. Applicants resident in U.K. should also send one copy of application to Inter-University Council, 90/91 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0DT.

University of Zambia

Applications are invited for the posts of

PROFESSOR/SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER

in the School of Law. Applicants for the post of Professor must have post-graduate qualification in Law with several years of teaching experience in under-graduate and post-graduate courses and considerable research experience. Applicants for the post of Senior Lecturer must have a post-graduate qualification in Law and minimum of three years teaching and research experience. Applicants for the post of Lecturer should possess a post-graduate qualification, teaching and research experience would be an advantage. Salary Scales: Professor, K8,232-K8,616 p.a. Senior Lecturer, K6,324-K7,200 p.a. Lecturer, K4,248-K6,108 p.a. (£1 sterling = K1.41). The British Government may supplement salaries in range £2,230-£4,062 p.a. (sterling) for married appointees and £330-£1,614 p.a. (sterling) for single appointees (reviewed annually and normally free of all tax) and provide children's education allowances and holiday visit passages. Family passages, various allowances, superannuation and medical aid schemes, regular overseas leave. Detailed applications (3 copies) including curriculum vitae and naming 3 referees, should be sent airmail not later than 17 January 1978 to Registrar, University of Zambia, PO Box 2379, Lusaka, Zambia. Applicants resident in U.K. should also send one copy to Inter University Council, 90/91 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1P 0DT. Further particulars may be obtained from either address.

University of Oxford
WORCESTER AND BALLIOL COLLEGES
FELLOWSHIP AND LECTURESHIP IN LAW

Worcester College, Oxford proposes to elect an Official Fellow and Tutor in Law from 1 October, 1978. The Fellowship will be held in conjunction with a Lectureship at Balliol College, and associated with a University Lectureship (C.U.F.).

Further particulars may be obtained from the Provost's Secretary, Worcester College, Oxford. The closing date for applications is 21 January, 1978.

University of Hongkong
Lectureship/Assistant Lectureship in Mathematics and Operational Research

Applications are invited for a post of Lecturer/Assistant Lecturer in Mathematics and Operational Research in the Department of Industrial Engineering. Applicants should have a first degree within the field of Mathematics, a higher degree in Operational Research or Statistics and direct experience of OR investigations and applications in manufacturing or service industry. Teaching duties at undergraduate level will include some first year mathematics as well as statistics and quantitative methods in second and third year. There will also be contributions to the department's part-time post-experience MSc course. There are opportunities for research and grants for this as well as conference travel are available. The department staff already includes three members with OR and statistics interests and the appointment is intended to further strengthen this area.

Annual salaries (superannuable): Lecturer HK$59,520 x 4,020—67,380 BAR 71,100 x 4,020—79,440 x 3,960—99,340; Assistant Lecturer HK$43,260 x 4,020—55,320. (£1=HK$8.50 approx). Starting salary will depend on qualifications and experience.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Association of Commonwealth Universities (Appts), 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF, or the Assistant Secretary (Recruitment), University of Hongkong, Hongkong.

Closing date for applications is 15 February 1978.

Bayero University
NIGERIA

Applications are invited for the posts of PROFESSOR AND LECTURER IN DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Applicants should be suitably qualified and have relevant experience. Applicants for the Lectureship should have specialization in either Urban and Rural Planning or Hydrology/Climatology, though consideration will be given to those specialising in other fields. Appointee to the Professorship may, at some stage, be expected to assume the duties of Head of Department. Salary Scales: Professor N11,368-N12,420 p.a. (£9,549-£10,535 p.a. sterling); Lecturer N5,460-N6,984 p.a. (£4,627-£5,918 p.a. sterling). (£1 sterling = N1.18). There may be supplementation of salary for married appointees to Professorship of £2,160 p.a. (sterling) (normally free of all tax and reviewed annually) and provision of children's education allowances and holiday visit passages. There will not be supplementation for single appointees to Professorship or to any appointees to Lectureship. Family passages; various allowances; superannuation or gratuity, biennial overseas leave. Detailed applications (2 copies), including a curriculum vitae and naming 3 referees should be sent by airmail, not later than 17 January 1978, to the Registrar, Bayero University, PMB 3011, Kano, Nigeria. Applicants resident in the U.K. should also send 2 copies to Inter-University Council, 90/91 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0DT. Further particulars may be obtained from either address.

Thames Hospital
NEW ZEALAND
Specialist Physician/Pediatrician, Thames Hospital

Applications are invited from suitably qualified Medical Practitioners for a position as whole time Specialist Physician with an interest in Pediatrics, or for a position as Pediatrician at Thames Hospital.

Salary within the Automatic Specialist Scale, present rates $NZ17,060-$NZ22,161, plus interim increase and C.O.L. Allowance. The commencing rate to be determined by the Medical Officers Grading Committee.

Conditions of appointment are available from the undersigned with whom applications close on 15 February, 1978, and further information may be obtained from the Medical Superintendent, Thames Hospital, at the same address.

D. Campbell, Secretary.
P.O. Box 407,
Thames Hospital,
New Zealand.

The University of Manchester
LECTURER IN ANCIENT HISTORY

Applications invited for this post. Initial salary range p.a. £3,333-£3,975. Superannuation. Particulars and application forms (returnable by January 20th) from the Registrar, The University, Manchester, M13 9PL. Quote ref. 194/77/T.

University of Rhodesia
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
SENIOR LECTURESHIP/LECTURESHIP IN PORTUGUESE

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the above-mentioned post in the Department of Modern Languages. Applicants will be required to teach both language and literature, and should state their special interests. The successful applicant will be appointed at a salary and grade appropriate to their qualifications and experience, and will be expected to take up their duties in March, 1978.

Salary Scales (approximate sterling equivalent): Senior Lecturer, £7,792 x £[illegible]-£7,774 x £260-£7,[illegible] x £500-£9,764. Lecturer, Grade I, £6,713 x £[illegible]-£7,7[illegible]. Lecturer, Grade II, £4,152 x £220-£5,242 x £250-£6,4[illegible]. Permanent Pensionable Terms: Family passages and allowance towards transport of effects on appointment. Installation loan of up to half of one year's salary if required. Unfurnished University accommodation guaranteed for a period of at least three years for persons recruited from outside Rhodesia. Sabbatical leave and triennial visits with travel allowances. Superannuation and medical aid schemes.

Short-term contracts: Family passages and allowance towards transport of effects. Assistance with accommodation for persons recruited from outside Rhodesia.

Applications (six copies) giving full personal particulars (including full name, place and date of birth, etc.), qualifications, experience and publications and names and addresses of three referees, should be submitted by 13 January, 1978 to the Registrar, University of Rhodesia, P.O. Box MP167, Mount Pleasant, Salisbury, Rhodesia, from whom further particulars may be obtained. Overseas applicants should send a copy of their applications to the Association of Commonwealth Universities (Appts.), 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF, from whom conditions of appointment may also be obtained. British subjects considering applying for posts in Rhodesia are urged to consult the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (telephone 233 4143) or their nearest British Consular Office.

University of Surrey
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
LECTURER IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

The Faculty of Engineering wishes to appoint a Lecturer, to the staff of the Honours Degree Course in Engineering. The course presents an integrated approach to the various engineering disciplines, and includes a one year's period of industrial training.

The person appointed will be required to lecture in one or more of the following fields: Mechanics, Thermodynamics, Stress Analysis, Production. He/She will also be required to assist the Course Director with the administration and development of the course, and to take part in industrial training placement and visiting students in industry. Industrial experience in the field of production would be an advantage. An interest in branches of engineering outside his/her own specialization is essential.

Salary will be within the range: £3,333-£6,655 per annum, with superannuation under USS conditions.

Further particulars of the post may be obtained from the Academic Registrar (LFG), University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 5XH, or Tel.: Guildford 71281, ext. 452. Applications, from men and women, in the form of a curriculum vitae, including the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the same address by January 20th, 1978.

University College Cardiff
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Applications are invited for the following posts:

WOMAN LECTURER IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION. The appointment is for a fixed period of four years. Please quote reference 1386a.

WOMAN LECTURER IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION with experience also in General Primary School Work. Please quote reference 1386b.

Salary range: £3,333-£6,655. Duties to commence as soon as possible.

Applications (2 copies), together with the names and addresses of two referees, should be forwarded to the Vice-Principal (Administration) and Registrar, University College, P.O. Box 78, Cardiff CF1 1XL, from whom further particulars may be obtained. Closing date 25th January, 1978.

Wellington College
HEAD OF SCIENCE

A vacancy will exist in September, 1978, for a Head of Science. The present holder of the office, who is moving to Eton, is also Head of Physics. Experienced graduates who are highly qualified in any branch of Science are invited to apply. Full details from The Master, Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berks. Applications, together with full curriculum vitae and the names of 2 referees to be submitted by 10th January, 1978. Interviews mid-January.

PART-TIME GRADUATE Teacher required for January "O" level Chemistry and Biology. 2-3 hours a day in private West London College. Tel. 960 5899.

Appointments Vacant also on page 16

EDUCATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

1978 BEIT MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIPS FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Notice is hereby given that an election of Junior Fellows to begin work on 1st October, 1978 will take place in May, 1978. Junior Fellowships carry an initial annual value of £3,333-£3,975 + £450 London Allowance, plus yearly increments for three years. There will be the usual university superannuation contributions and benefits. Candidates must have taken a degree in a faculty of a university approved by the Trustees in Her Majesty's Dominions, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, India, Pakistan, the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom, or a medical diploma registrable in the U.K. Elections to Junior Fellowships are rarely made above the age of 35 years. Applications from candidates must be received not later than 17th March, 1978. Candidates must submit evidence that they can be given accommodation in the departments where they propose to work, which must be in Great Britain or Ireland.

Forms of application and all information may be obtained from Professor W. G. Spector, Pathology Department, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London EC1A 7BE. For overseas candidates forms of application may be obtained from The Secretary, South African Medical Council, P.O. Box 205, Pretoria, South Africa; The Ministry of Health, The Government of India, New Delhi, India; The Secretary, Dept. of Education and Science, P.O. Box 826, Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601 Australia; The Dept. of Health, Wellington, New Zealand; and, The Canadian Medical Association, 1867 Alta Vista Drive, Ottawa 8, Ontario, Canada.

EDUCATIONAL

NOTICE

University of London
LEON FELLOWSHIP

Applications are invited for the Leon Fellowship for Research (preferably in the fields of Economics or Education) for the Session 1978-79. The Fellowship is of the value of not less than £1,630 a year, plus tuition fees, and is tenable in the first instance for one year. It is not essential that candidates should be members of a University, but they are expected to put forward a proposal of research of an advanced character and to produce evidence that they can carry it out. Selected candidates will be required to attend for interview. Further particulars should be obtained from the Scholarships Section, Room 21B, Senate House, London, WC1E 7HU, and applications for the Fellowship must be received not later than 1 February 1978.

هذا من الاصل

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Broadcasting

BBC 1

12.45 pm, News. 1.00, Pebble Mill. 1.45-2.00, Chigley. 3.15, Songs of Praise. 3.55, Play School. 4.20, The Wombles. 4.25, Jackanory. 4.40, Graham's Gang. 5.05, John Craven. 5.10, Blue Peter.

5.40 News. 5.55, Nationwide.
6.17 Christmas with Nationwide: The Pantomime.
6.40 Driver of the Year: Grand Final.
7.30 The risk Business Special: Everything to Play for—toys.
8.10 Panorama. David Steel faces party critics over the Lib-Lab pact (live).
9.00 News.
9.25 Olympia International Show Jumping Championships.
10.35 Tonight, including interview with Martin Webster of the National Front.
11.35 Weather.

Regional variations (BBC 1): BBC WALES: 1.45-2.00 pm, Pili Pala. 5.55-6.17, Wales Today. 6.40, Heddiw. 7.05, Tom and Jerry. 7.20-8.10, Driver of the Year: Grand Final. SCOTLAND: 5.55-6.17 pm, Reporting Scotland. 10.55, Public Account. 11.30, News. NORTHERN IRELAND: 3.53-3.55 pm, Northern Ireland News. 5.55-6.17, Scene Around Six.

Channel

1.18 pm, Channel News. 1.30, Thames. 5.15, Valley of the Dinosaurs. 5.45, News. 6.00, Channel News. 6.10, Clue Club. 6.45, Thames. 10.32, Westward Darts Final. 11.00, Film: The house that Dripped Blood. 12.45 am, Channel Gazette.

Westward

11.05 am, Southern. 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, Treasures in Store. 1.00, News. 1.20, Westward News Headlines. 1.30, Thames. 5.15, Just the Job. 5.45, News. 6.00, Westward Diary. 6.20, Sports Desk. 6.45, Thames. 10.30, Westward Darts Final. 11.00, Film: The House That Dripped Blood, with Peter Cushing. 12.45 am, Faith for Life.

Anglia

10.30 am, Survival. 11.00, Breakline. 11.05, Southern. 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, Out of Town. 1.00, News. 1.25, Anglia News. 1.30, Southern. 2.25, Thames. 5.15, ATV. 6.00, About Anglia. 6.45, Thames. 10.30, Brian Connell Interview. 11.00, Film: Seconds. 12.55 am, A Carol for Christmas.

Border

11.05 am, Southern. 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, All About Babies. 1.00, News. 1.20, Border News. 1.30, Southern. 2.45, Thames. 5.15, Garnock Way. 5.45, News. 6.00, Border News. 6.15, University Challenge. 6.45, Thames. 10.30, Film: Theatre of Death, with Christopher Lee, Julian Glover. 12.30 am, Border News.

Yorkshire

11.00 am, Honalong Cassidy. 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, All about Babies. 1.00, News. 1.20, Calendar News. 1.30, Thames. 5.15, ATV. 6.00, Calendar. 6.45, Thames. 10.30-12.25 am, Film: The Southern Star, with George Segal, Ursula Andress, Orson Welles, Ian Hendry, Harry Andrews.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 am, Play School.
7.00 pm, News Headlines.
7.05 The Camera and the Song, with Dory Previn: Mindscape.
7.30 Newsday.
8.10 The Magic Show.
9.00 Who Pays the Ferryman?
9.50 One Pair of Hands: David Wynne, a sculptor and his work.
10.30 Opening Doors: What's it like to make an Open Door programme?
11.15 The Light of Experience.
11.30 News.
11.40-11.45, Marius Goring reads Christmas in Seville, by Laurie Lee.

Granada

11.00 am, The Christmas Martian. 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, Mr and Mrs. 1.00, News. 1.20, Dodo. 1.30, Thames. 5.15, ATV. 6.00, Granada Reports. 6.45, Thames. 10.30, Reports Politics. 11.00-12.35 am, Film: Fay Wray in The Mystery of the Wax Museum.

Grampian

11.05 am, Wildlife Cinema. 11.35, Southern. 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, Being a Child. 1.00, News. 1.20, Grampian News Headlines. 1.30, Thames. 5.15, ATV. 6.00, Grampian Today. 6.05, Electric Theatre Show. 6.45, Thames. 10.30, Film: I Walk the Line, with Gregory Peck, Tuesday Weld, Estelle Parsons. 12.25 am, Reflections.

Tyne Tees

11.05 am, Southern. 11.35, Sole One. 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, All about Babies. 1.00, News. 1.20, North-East News. 1.30, Thames. 5.15, ATV. 6.00, Northern Life. 6.40, Police Call. 6.45, Thames. 10.30, Northern Scene. 11.00, Film: Where the Bullets Fly, with Tom Adams, Dawn Addams. 12.40 am, Epilogue.

Scottish

11.05 am, Southern 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, All about Babies (r). 1.00, News. 1.25, Road Report. 1.30, Thames. 5.15, Southern. 6.00, Scotland today. 6.25, Crimedesk. 6.45, Thames. 10.30, Late Call. 10.35-12.30 am, Film: Lock, Stock and Barrel, with Tim Matheson, Belinda Montgomery.

Ulster

11.05 am, Southern. 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, Vera, the Beautiful Spy. 1.00, News. 1.20, Lunchtime. 1.30, Thames. 2.00, See You Monday. 2.25, Thames. 5.15, ATV. 6.00, Ulster Television News. 6.05, Up Squares and Down. 6.30, Reports. 6.45, Thames. 10.30, Monday Night. 10.35, Film: The Winslow Boy, with Robert Donat, Margaret Leighton, Cedric Hardwicke.

HTV

11.05 am, Southern. 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, Out of Town. 1.00, News. 1.20, West Headlines. 1.25, Wales Headlines. 1.30, Southern. 2.25, Thames. 5.15, On Seven Hills They Built a City. 5.45, News. 6.00, Report West. 6.22, Report Wales. 6.45, Thames. 10.35-12.45 am, Film: Harlow, with Carroll Baker. HTV CYMRU/WALES: As HTV except: 1.20-1.25 pm, Penawdau Newyddion y Dydd. 2.00-2.25, Hamdden. 6.00-6.22, Y Dydd. 8.30-9.00, Yr Wythnos. HTV WEST: As HTV except: 1.20-1.30 pm, West Headlines. 6.22-6.45, Report West.

Thames

11.00 am, Untamed Frontiers. 11.25, Cartoon. 11.30, The Splendour Falls. 12.00, Chorlton. 12.10 pm, Hickory House (r). 12.30, The Flintstones (r). 1.00, News. 1.20, Help! 1.30, Farmhouse Kitchen. 2.00, After Noon. 2.25, Film: The Young Pioneers, with Roger Kern, Linda Purl. 4.15, Clapperboard. 4.45, Extraordinary. 5.15, Batman (r).

5.45 News. 6.00, Thames at 6.
6.45 Opportunity Knocks!
7.30 Coronation Street.
8.00 George and Mildred.
8.30 This England.
9.00 Play: Joe and Mary.
10.00 News.
10.30 Film: High Society, with Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Grace Kelly.

12.25 am, Christmas Pie.
(r) Repeat.

ATV

11.00 am, Film: Buster Keaton Rides Again. 11.55, Parsley. 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, Today's People. 1.00, News. 1.20, ATV News. 1.30, Thames. 5.15, University Challenge. 5.45, News. 6.00, ATV Today. 6.45, Thames. 10.30, Citizens' Rights. 11.15, David Niven's World. 11.45, Something Different.

Southern

11.05 am, Welcome to the Ceilidh. 11.35, Nobody's House. 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, Farm Progress (r). 1.00, News. 1.20, Southern News. 1.30, Farmhouse Kitchen. 2.00, Houseparty. 2.25, Thames. 5.15, Mr and Mrs. 5.45, News. 6.00, Day by Day. 6.45, Thames. 10.30, Afloat. 11.00, Southern News. 11.10, Banacek. 12.35 am, Weather; Epilogue.

Radio

1

6.00 am, News. Colin Berry.† 7.02, Noel Edmonds. 9.00, Simon Bates. 11.31, Paul Burnett. 2.00 pm, Kid Jensen. 4.31, DLT. 7.02, You've Got to be Joking. 7.30, Alan Dell. 9.02, Humphrey Lyttelton.† 10.02, John Peel.† 12.00-12.05 am, News.
† Stereo.

2

6.00 am, Radio 1. 7.03, Terry Wogan.† 9.02, Pete Murray.† (10.30, Waggoners' Walk.) 11.30, Jimmy Young.† 1.50 pm, Sports Desk. 2.02, David Hamilton.† 4.30, Waggoners' Walk. 4.45, Sports Desk. 4.48, John Dunn.† 7.02, Radio 1. 10.07, Star Sound. 11.03, Don Durbridge. 12.00-12.05 am, News.

3

6.55 am, Weather. 7.00, News. 7.05, Vejvanovsky, Telemann, Cherubini, Gluck.† (7.30-10.00, Cricket, First Test, m/f only). 8.00. News. 8.05, Arne, Goossens, Vaughan Williams, Britten.† 9.00, News. 9.05, Mozart.† 10.00, Atarah's Music Box. 10.20, Cello and Piano Recital: Porpora, Dohnanyi.† 11.00, Talking about Music.† 11.30, Mahler. Symphony No 2.†

1.00 pm, News. 1.05, BBC Lunchtime Concert: Schoenberg, Johann Strauss, Rossini.† 2.00, Organ Music: Boellman, Langlais.† 2.30, Matinee Musicale.† 3.30, New Records: Walton, Byrd, Beethoven, Elgar.† 5.15, Bandstand.† 5.45, Homeward Bound.† 6.05, News. 6.10, Homeward Bound. 6.30, Running a Home. 7.00, The School Years.

7.30, Schumann: Scenes from Goethe's Faust.† 8.30, The Rise and Fall of the Political Press, by Stephen Koss. 8.50, Schumann (continued).† 9.50, Piano Music: Bartok, Ives, Schoenberg, Valen, Norgaard.† 10.45, Plainsong and the Rise of European Music.† 11.25-11.30, News.

4

6.15 am, News. 6.17, Farming. 6.35, Up to the Hour. 7.00, News. 7.10, Today. 7.35, Up to the Hour. 8.00, News. 8.10, Today. 8.45, James Cameron. 9.00, News. 9.05, Richard Baker. 10.00, News. 10.05, Wildlife. 10.30, Service. 10.45, Story. 11.00, News. 11.05, The Mountain of Light, story of the Koh-i-noor Diamond. 11.50, Announcements. 12.00, News. 12.02 pm, You and Yours. 12.27, Top of the Form. 12.55, Weather.

1.00, News. 1.30, The Archers. 1.45, Woman's Hour. 2.45, Listen with Mother. 3.00, News. 3.05, Play: Antique Farce. 4.35, Story: Diary of a Provincial Lady, by E. M. Delafield, part 1. 5.00, PM Reports. 5.40, Carols Around the World. 5.55, Weather.

6.00, News. 6.30, Doctor Finlay's Casebook. 7.00, News. 7.05, The Archers. 7.20, From Our Own Correspondent. 7.45, Christopher Fry at 70: A Sleep of Prisoners. 9.00, Co-operation Man: Richard Leakey on the origins of mankind. 9.30, Kaleidoscope. 9.59, Weather. 10.00, News. 10.30, Profile. 11.00, A Book at Bedtime: Annals of the Parish, by John Galt, part 1. 11.15, The Financial World Tonight. 11.30, Today in Parliament. 11.45, News. 12.03-12.06 am, Inshore Forecast.

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(continued on page 24)

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8 ★★★★ First Published 1785

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ALSO ON PAGE 23

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". . . GOD, who at *sundry times* and in divers manners, spake in time past . . . hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son."—Hebrews 1: 1, 2.

BIRTHS

BLAIKLEY.—On December 17th, in Hongkong, to Pauline (*nee Paddon*) and Paul—a son (Alexandra Paul) brother for Rachel.

FOSTER.—On December 14th at St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford, to Anne (nee Cooper) and Charles—a daughter, Harriet Phyllis Tatiana.

GROUND.—On December 18th, at Mount Alvernia Nursing Home, Guildford, to Sarah (nee Powell) and Alan—a daughter, sister for Edward, Mark and Robert.

HOPE.—On December 16, 1977 at Haslidon Hospital to Elaine (nee Barratt) and Raymond—a son and daughter.

HUNT.—On December 15th at St. John's Hospital, Chelmsford, to Annabel (nee Turner) and John—a daughter (*Fenella Annabel*).

JOHNSTON.—On December 15th at Harrogate to Virginia (nee de Laroque) and Peter—a son (Charles), a brother for Sophie and Sam.

SELDON.—On December 15th at Farnborough Hospital, Kent, to Julia (nee Lansdale) and Peter—a son (Mathew David Willett).

WEAIT.—On 16 December at St. Thomas's hospital, London, to Patricia (nee Carmichael) and John—a son (James Henry Towers).

MARRIAGES

ADAMS : GREAVES.—On December 17th, at Maidenhead, Nigel Charles Adams to Kathryn Elizabeth Greaves.

JOHNSON : MACKAY.—On 3rd December, Roland James Johnson, only son of Maureen Johnson and the late Ernest James Johnson to Mary Elizabeth Mackay, only daughter of John and Martha Mackay.

ROANTREE : ANDERSON. — On 17th December at King's Lynn, Gerard Roantree to Elizabeth Anderson, both of Burnham Market.

RUBY WEDDING

DU SAUTOY : FLOUD.—On December 18, 1937, at Chelsea Old Church, Peter du Sautoy to Mollie Floud. Present address: 31 Lee Road, Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

DEATHS

BENSON.—On December 17th, Hugh Gilpin Benson, priest, beloved husband of Hazel, father of Mary, Anne and Christopher, and grandfather of Tom and Samuel. Requiem mass in St. Gabriel's, Plymouth, Tuesday 20th, 10 a.m. Requiem mass followed by burial in St. Thomas a Becket, Elsfield, on Wednesday 21st, at 12.30 p.m. No flowers, but donations, if desired, to Elsfield Church.

BOURSNELL.—On 17th December, 1977, suddenly, at 38 Thornton Way, Girton, Cambridge, John, greatly loved husband of Joan, father of David and Shirley, Michael and Kate and Peter. Funeral service at Cambridge Crematorium on Thursday, 22nd *December, at 1.30 p.m.* No flowers, please.

CASH.—On December 16th, 1977, suddenly in hospital Dorothy Lucy Cash of 26 Woodlands Road, N.3. Loyal friend to Doris V. Austin. *Cremation at Golders Green (East Chapel)* on Thursday, December 22nd, at 1.50 p.m. Flowers if desired to Leverton & Sons Ltd., 624 Finchley Road, N.W.11, by 12 noon.

***COCHRANE.**—On December 17th*, at Burford Cottage Hospital, Air Chief Marshal the Honourable Sir Ralph Cochrane, G.B.E., K.C.B., A.F.C., husband of Hilda. Funeral private. Memorial service to be announced later.

CODD.—On Dec. 17th, peacefully, in Horsham Hospital after a few months' illness, John Francis, aged 85. A vice president of The Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers, one time Estate Agent *at Christ's Hospital and chairman* of Horsham Hospital, a lifelong worker for the Redhill Hospital Group. He leaves Philip and Pauline who remember him with love. Funeral service at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Worth, near Crawley, Tuesday, 20th December at 10 a.m. Flowers may be sent to Freeman Brothers, Funeral Directors, Horsham.

EVE.—On December 17th, 1977, peacefully, at his home, Frank Maxwell Eve, aged 77 years, of Crendon, Peaslake, Surrey, dear husband of Marguerite Helen and beloved father of Giles, his wife Sandra and Jancis. Funeral service at 2 p.m. on Thursday, December 22nd, at St Mark's Church, Peaslake. Inquiries, please, to Sherlock & Sons, Trellis House, Dorking. Telephone Dorking 2366.

GRAHAM.—On Dec 17th, in hospital, Lt.-Col. Arthur Thomas James Graham, R.A. (retd.), of Bowhay Farm, Aish, Totnes. Funeral service, Stoke Gabriel Church, Wednesday 21st, 2.45 p.m. Cremation private. No *flowers or letters, please.* Donations to Church of England Children's Society.

HODGES.—On 16th December, 1977, peacefully, at his home, The Corn Mill, Sandford Orcas, Sherborne, Dorset, Colonel Alexander Phelps (John) Hodges, M.C., T.D., R.A. (retd.), in his 84th year. Much loved husband of Eileen and of the late Madeleine and brother of Julie Leonardi. Funeral service 2.30 p.m. on *Thursday, 22nd December*, at St Nicholas Church, Sandford Orcas, followed by cremation at Yeovil Crematorium. Cut flowers only to Cecil Eason, Funeral Directors, Nowell, Sherborne, or donations to the Royal Artillery Association, c/o Lloyds Bank, Sherborne. Memorial service to be announced later.

JOLIVET.—On December 16th, 1977, Beatrice Jolivet, widow of Alfred Eugene Jolivet, of 1595 Marpole Avenue, Vancouver, Canada. She leaves her son Lawrence, daughter-in-law Patricia and two grandchildren, Mary and Timothy, all of Vancouver, BC.

***LOVELAND.**—On 16th December*, suddenly, at home, Arthur Charles of Old Coulsdon, Surrey.

MAY.—On Dec. 15th, 1977, peacefully after a long illness bravely borne, Harry, beloved husband of Mary. Cremation at Golders Green on Wed., Dec. 21st at 3.30 pm. Flowers may be sent to J. H. Kenyon Ltd., 9 Pond St., NW3.

PHIMISTER.—On December 13th 1977, George Samuel Phimister, beloved husband of Rosemary, father of Russell and Pat. Funeral service, Tuesday 20th December, at 12 noon, St. Paul's Church, Church Hill, Camberley, Surrey, followed by cremation at 1 p.m. at Easthampstead Crema*torium. Flowers to the church* or to 6 Maultway Close, Camberley, Surrey.

PRINGLE-PATTISON.—On 16th December, Lt.-Col. Harry Siegfried Seth Pringle-Pattison, M.C. *and Bar, late Queens Own* Cameron Highlanders. Funeral private.

RANKIN.—On Dec. 16th at King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, Charles Winton Browne, husband *of Marina and father of* Gavin and James. Funeral Christchurch, Victoria Rd., W.8, Tues., Dec. 20th, 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to King Edward VII Hospital.

ROBINSON.—On Saturday, December 17th, very peacefully, asleep in a deep coma after very short illness, Isabel Susan (Susie), beloved wife of Brigadier W. P. A. Robinson, of 19 Lower Ward, Windsor Castle, and beloved *mother of* Guy Robinson, 46 Carson Road, West Dulwich, London. Funeral at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 21st followed by private cremation. (Sorry, only date and time *available.*)

SEAGER.—On December 16th, in Tunbridge Wells, Basil William Seager, C.M.G., O.B.E., aged 79. Late Colonial Administrative Service and H.M. Immi*gration Service.* Dearly loved husband of Heather and stepfather of Robin Bethaven and Stenton. Cremation Wednesday, December 21st at 2 p.m. at Tunbridge Wells. Please, no flowers.

STEADMAN.—On 16th December at home in Seaford in her 55th year, Valerie Maude (nee Quilman) beloved sister, mother, grandmother and wife, and good friend of many. Funeral at 2.30 p.m. Thursday 22nd December, Woodvale Crematorium, Lewes Road, Brighton. Family flowers only, but wished donation to Cancer Care.

STEWART.—On December 15th, Peggie (nee Weld-Blundell), peacefully at home in Lausanne, widow of Cd. A. G. B. Stewart, O.B.E., beloved mother of Henry and loving grandmother of Julian.

TURNER.—On December 17th, 1977, peacefully at Cross Ways, Goring-on-Thames, Oxon., Henry Frederic Lawrence Turner. Funeral service with requiem in St. Thomas of Canterbury Church, Goring-on-Thames, on Thursday, December 22nd, at 11.30 a.m. Enquiries to Cyril H. Lovegrove, Trinity House, 114-116 Oxford *Road, Reading. Tel. 52016.*

WEXHAM.—John Victor, aged 71, on December 17, beloved husband of Doris. Funeral on Friday, December 23, at Eastbourne Crematorium. No flowers by request. *Donations should be* sent to Cancer Research.

WILSON.—On 15th December, 1977 May, wife of the late H. B. Wilson of Three Chimneys, Biddenden, Kent, peacefully at home *in her 89th year.*

WISHART.—On December 13th, passed away peacefully, Cecile Wishart, at the age of 86. Cremation December 21st, Mortlake Crematorium, London. Corre*spondence address:* Sheila M. de Ridder-Johnson, Prinses Julianalaan 86, Rotterdam 16, Holland.

IN MEMORIAM

DAVIES.—In ever loving memory of David Leslie Davies, Captain 4th P.W.O. Gurkha Rifles and Gilgit Scouts, 19th December, 1948.—Mother, John, Florence and Muriel.

GRAVETT, DAPHNE.—My love, died of cancer, 1976.—Guy.

HARRIS, SAMUEL.—In constant memory of Dear Old Dad and "Gen". We are forever grateful for your wisdom and your devotion to us, and the memories you left us.—These are our keepsakes.—Horace, Billy, Jacky, Bunty and Peter.

ODDIE, MARY LEARMOUTH.—Remembered with loving thoughts who passed away 19th Dec., 1976.—William, Marilyn, Linda and William.

PREVOST.—In reverent memory of Annie M. Provost, of Elfords, Hawkhurst, who died on Dec. 24, 1916.

***ROADS.**—In ever-loving* and constant memory of a devoted husband and father, Herbert Clifford Roads, who died thirteen years ago today, 19th December—missed so very much.—Vera and Christopher.

***SAUNDERS, ALFRED W.**—Always* loved, always remembered and deeply missed.—Eileen, Ian and family.

WHATLEY, DAVID STUART.—Tragically killed 1975. Dearly loved, so sadly missed.

WRIGHT.—In loving memory of our beloved only son, Richard Lynden, on his birthday 19th December, 1949.—Millicent and Cyril Wright.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE required.—See General Vacancies.

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***XMAS PARTIES.** London's Premier* Cordon Bleu Caterers.—See Services.

MRS. MARJORIE WHITAKER is at St. Saviour's Hospital, Hythe, and cannot send cards, so takes this opportunity of wishing all her friends and relations a Merry Christmas.

ASST. SECRETARY for London Electricity Council.—See Gen. Vacs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL VOLUNTEERS

Archaeological volunteers required for the excavation of a Roman cremation cemetery at Ospringe, Faversham, Kent, from January to March, 1978. Accommodation provided, small subsistence allowance payable.

For details send S.A.E. to: Mr. E. Higginbotham, D.O.E., Room 334, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London, W1X 2HE.

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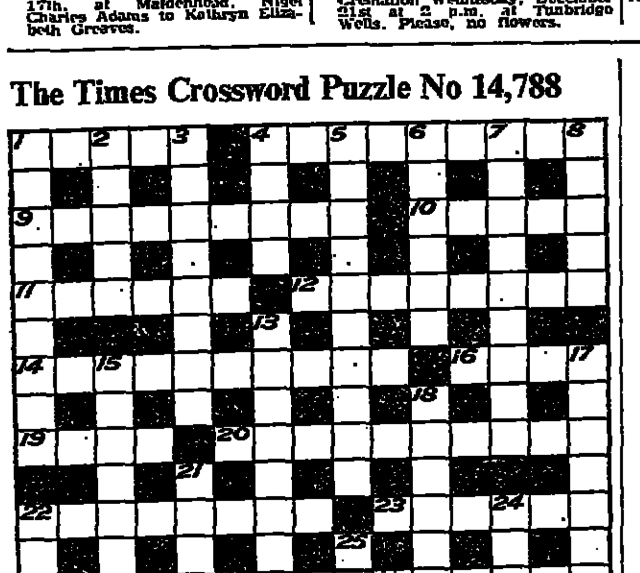
(continued on page 23)

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 14,788



ACROSS

1 Lover of spot where all *roads led to nothing* (5).
4 Cock of the north going for blackberries? (9).
9 He can't find nothing out—except your secrets? (9).
10 Strength implied by musketeers' motto (5).
11 The not quite nice arrangement of races (6).
12 The antithesis of a tax haven? (8).
14 Brave order of march (6, 4).
16 Handy weapon of offence (4).
19 One of the Services? (4).
20 *Dicey* characteristic of adolescence (10).
22 Sailor beginning to eat a fish dish (8).
23 More *imagination needed to* create this dream (6).
26 Windmill's finest production (5).
27 Half a *Landseer? What* cheek! (9).
28 If port, it's red (9).
29 Cathy all at sea? (5).

DOWN

1 Opulent priest centre of feud as a King's *Minister* (9).
2 Sundays only? That will take ages (5).
3 First one to drink in by mouth (8).
4 Rhythm of defeat (4).
5 Having joints of the speak-easy type? (10).
6 Liberal provision for William's ship? (6).
7 Describes a complimentary (if not 3) action (9).
8 Sent up a sound conductor (5).
13 Upsetting loss of a golfer's finishing form (3-7).
15 Material for a sea shanty? (9).
17 What can't be taken with you may be left in this (9).
18 Barely suitable for one's start in life (8).
21 This clock should tell us the blooming time (6).
22 Did their use make Victorians less warm-hearted? (5).
24 Godlike state of terror (5).
25 Place to see (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 14,787